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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Should panhandling be prohibited in the CNMI?

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INSIDE

MAHARLIKA

A 102-year-old Filipino man becomes a U.S. citizen.

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NATION

America's historic health care overhaul survives at the Supreme Court.

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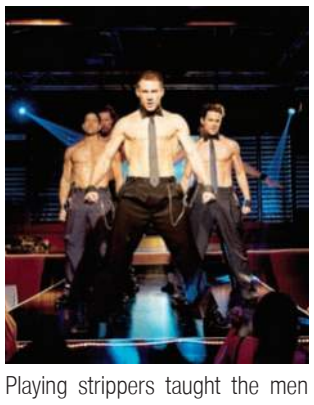
LIFE & STYLE



Playing strippers taught the men of "Magic Mike" something about women.

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Tan Holdings pulls plug on Saipan Air

» Company files complaint with FBI
» Bankruptcy case prevented filing of civil case

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A CNMI flag carrier continues to be a pipe dream following Saipan Air's decision yesterday to cease operations after its supposed partner, Swift Air LLC, reneged on its promise to deliver an aircraft a week before the airline's inaugural flight.

"Unfortunately, the economic reality of restarting operations following the postponement of the original launch date presents an insurmountable obstacle," said Saipan Air counsel Steven P. Pixley.

In a statement issued at 5pm yesterday, Pixley announced that Saipan Air made the difficult decision to cease operations effective immediately.

Pixley also disclosed in an interview that the company has filed a complaint with the Federal Bureau of Investigation to investigate Swift Air LLC and its officials for alleged criminal activity against Saipan Air's mother company, Tan Holdings Corp.

Pixley said that Swift Air's recent filing for bankruptcy in Arizona has pre-

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'A sad day for the CNMI'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» Saipan Air could have been single major added factor to revive CNMI economy

Saipan Air's historic launch and the millions of dollars it would infuse into the economy by bringing in more tourists from Japan and China could have been the single major driving factor in the CNMI's economic recovery in 2012 but yesterday's announcement that the airline is ceasing its operations came as a shock, with the Fitial administration and the business sector describing it as "a sad day for the CNMI."

"This latest development is certainly a devastating blow to the widespread anticipation of increased visitor arrivals and much needed economic stimula-

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CONGRATULATIONS

Rep. Fred Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), second from left, reads a House resolution congratulating the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve on its 40th anniversary as ESGR Guam-CNMI Committee state chair David J. Sablan, second from right, Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), right, acting House speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan), third from left, other lawmakers and other ESGR officers and staff look on during a brief ceremony on Capital Hill Tuesday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Thomas Weindl is shown in photo obtained from his Facebook account.

School principal arrested on child porn charges

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

» Principal allegedly admits viewing child porn out of 'morbid curiosity'

Federal Bureau of Investigation agents arrested Thursday Whispering Palms School principal Thomas Weindl for allegedly using a laptop to view child pornographic materials, mostly of 11-year-old girls.

Weindl, 67, was taken to the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday afternoon on charges of receipt of child pornography and accessing child pornography with intent to view.

Attorney David Banes appeared as counsel for Weindl. Assistant attorneys general Rami Badawy and Garth R. Backe represented the U.S. government.

Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted the prosecution's motion to detain Weindl temporarily.

A detention hearing will be held on July 5 at 3:30pm and the preliminary hearing will be on July 13 at 1:30pm.

According to the complaint, the Public School System-issued netbook was issued to the son of an FBI special agent. The agent and his family are transferring to the U.S. mainland so he recently returned the netbook to Weindl.

The special agent, however, had installed

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Fitial vetoes expungement bill. PAGE 2
Lightening interrupts water supply to Dandan. PAGE 2

Local

Fitial vetoes bill to expunge some criminal records

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial vetoed yesterday a bill that would have allowed the expungement of certain criminal records and restore certain rights, but the bill's author, Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), said he still believes his legislation will give those who committed minor indiscretions a chance to have their records expunged to increase their chance of employment, join the military, run for office, or serve as a juror.

Torres' House Bill 17-52, House Draft 2, Senate Substitute 1, Senate Draft 1 had bounced between the House and Senate since it was introduced in March 2010.

"[HB 17-52] is a legislative proposal consistent with our heritage and culture in that it seeks to provide a mechanism for forgiveness of past criminal acts. Unfortunately, for the reasons outlined below, I must veto this bill," Fitial said in his veto message to acting House Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) and Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota).

The governor cited six reasons for vetoing the bill, including conflict with existing statutes regarding expungement of juvenile records.

Public Law 16-47 provides that the records of criminal activity by juveniles may be expunged unless first- or second-degree sexual offense or murder. But existing regulation permits a juvenile's criminal record to be expunged if it is third- or fourth-degree sexual offence. In other words, it only prohibits expungement of first- and second-degree offenses.

Fitial said HB 17-52 does not permit a record to be expunged if it relates to any sexual offense, including third- and fourth-degree convictions, effectively limiting the rights currently afforded to juveniles.

In his three-page veto message, the governor said the bill also conflicts with current regulations permitting non-public files of expunged records.

Several other statutes permit the court to retain nonpublic records of the expunged record for use in the case of future violations.

Fitial said a permanent record is needed to ensure that those who re-offend will not be inappropriately treated similar to first-time offenders.

"Therefore if all records, both public and non-public, are destroyed, there would be no way to determine if someone is a repeat offender or a true first-time offender," the governor said.

Fitial also said the bill states that individuals convicted of a felony may, "after five years," request their rights be restored with respect to public employment among other rights.

But Fitial said existing laws set different requirements for public appointment and elected office.

The governor said per existing law, a person is not competent to serve as a juror if he or she has been convicted of a crime punishable by a year or more in prison.

"[HB 17-52] overrides this law, by restoring juror competence without actually repealing or amending the existing provision," he said.

Fitial also cited the bill's lack of guidelines for the court to use in granting expungement.

The governor also said the bill proposes an amendment to 6 CMC 4113 (a) to include instructions for when a conviction may be "vacated" per the bill. But the governor said the bill has no provision that addresses vacating a conviction.

"Rather, the bill discusses only expungement and restoration of rights. The different terms have different meanings and effects. Thus, the bill should be revised to refer specifically to the terms addressed and used in the other sections of the bill," Fitial said.

Torres, when asked for comment, said he had a "gut feeling" that the governor would veto his bill but he was still hoping that that wouldn't be the case.

"It's proof that Herminia Fusco is influential," Torres said in a phone interview.

Fusco, a former Commonwealth Zoning Board chair, wrote Fitial a letter in May, asking him not to enact the expungement bill, saying the government should worry more about the feelings of majority of decent, law-abiding citizens than that of criminals.

"And by allowing convicted criminals to occupy elected office, this bill will make a mockery of those very offices. Elected leaders are supposed to be a little better than the rest of us, not worse," Fusco said in a two-page letter to Fitial.

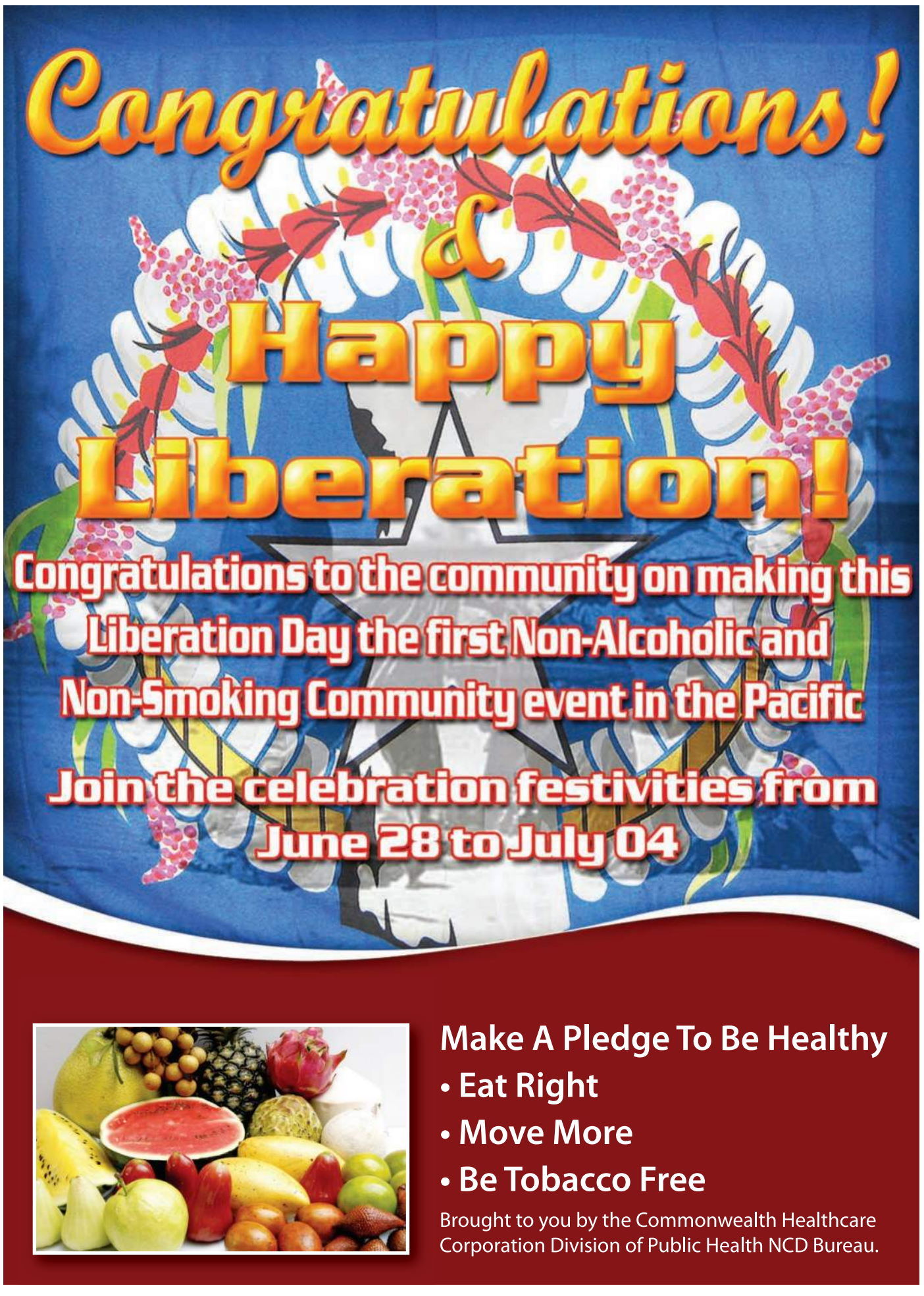
Fusco could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Torres said he has yet to see the veto message so he couldn't say yet whether after addressing all the governor's concerns, he could resurrect the bill and introduce a better version of it.

"Because I haven't seen the letter yet, I also can't comment whether I'd ask my colleagues to override it," he said.

Torres, one of the longest serving lawmakers in the CNMI, said it is unfair that those convicted of involuntary manslaughter, for example, "and enter a plea bargain could get a one-year probation and then be forgiven and could have a clean record. But those who were convicted of minor violations are tainted for life."

"Is that fair?" he asked.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Lightening strike interrupts water supply to Dandan

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Water customers in Dandan suffered an interruption in their water service due to a lightning strike that hit the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Isley Booster Station on Wednesday.

Acting CUC executive director Alan W. Fletcher disclosed yesterday that the direct lightening strike Wednesday night knocked out the booster station's motors and electrical equipment.

Because of this incident, CUC alerted its customers in the affected area of limited water supply until end of this week due to the work that needs to be done to fix the station.

Fletcher revealed that CUC operations crewmembers have restored one pump, providing very limited service. They are scheduled to replace the second pump today.

"Unfortunately, this means limited service in the Dandan area until crews fully restore pumping capacity," said Fletcher.

He said that customers in higher elevations in Dandan will have little service until tomorrow. Customers in the other areas in Dandan only had two hours of water service yesterday and will suffer limited service until this morning.

Fletcher said CUC expects full service to all Dandan customers to resume tomorrow after the water tanks are refilled, stabilizing the system's pressure.

"Despite CUC's best efforts to extend full time water service, unforeseen problems such as a lightning strike will cause short-term shortages. CUC apologizes for this inconvenience and will continue to work on restoring services as soon as possible," added Fletcher.

He advised customers to call the Water Division at 322-5030 for any questions or concerns.

ESGR initiative connects service members with employers

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

With the high rate of unemployment among service members across the nation, the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is committed to the implementation of the U.S. Department of Defense's latest program aimed at improving the chances for Guards and Reservists to get employed.

The Employment Initiative Program or EIP is the latest "relevant initiative" launched in 2011 and connects employers with service members and their spouses to facilitate employment opportunities.

David J. Sablan, state chair of the Guam-CNMI Committee of ESGR, introduced the EIP to local employers during the Employer Initiative Symposium held Wednesday at the Azucena Room of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan.

Sablan said in his presentation that DOD, through ESGR, is "very keen" in implementing the program to benefit these men and women in uniform who are in need of jobs when they come back from deployment.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Employers of Guards and Reservists in the CNMI join volunteers and staff of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve during the Employer Initiative Symposium held at Fiesta Resort & Spa on Wednesday.

"A lot of these military personnel deploy and come back and start showing up in unemployment lines like the social services or public health because they don't have a job and can't take care of their families and this is really a travesty," Sablan told some 25 employer representatives at the event.

Sablan said that Guam alone has an unemployment rate of 12 percent, higher than the national average of 8.9 percent.

"As you can see, it's a high percentage and we have to do something about it," he added.

Sablan noted, though, that the EIP program does not mean that ESGR is a job placement agency. He said the program involves an action plan intended to conduct employer symposia to discuss "Hiring Our Heroes," abolish community association with job placement agencies, reach out to military commands to help their unemployed or under-employed service members, and co-sponsor job fairs and employment assistance workshops.

He said that federal and local agencies as well as private offices and organizations have partnered with DOD to provide assistance through EIP to service members who are either unemployed or underemployed.

EIP has two approaches. The "high-tech" is the Hero2Hired or H2H program, a valuable and free resource providing opportunities for job seekers and employers through a job search site and online community for both employers and service members. It can be accessed at www.H2H.jobs.com.

The "high touch" approach, on the other hand, involves state-specific job events hosted by ESGR such as job fairs.

Sablan emphasized that components of the Guard and Reserve are valuable to employers because of their leadership, professionalism, responsibility, mission-critical skills, physical conditioning, "can do" attitude, calm under pressure, first class image, on-time all the time approach, and global perspective.

In an interview after his presentation, Sablan expressed optimism that Guam and the CNMI will have a "strong appreciation" of the military members and that the EIP will have a good response among employers on island.

"All we kindly ask is for employers to put them in front of the line when hiring, have them go through the normal testing and interview process. If they qualify, please hire them. That's our request," he added.

For more information, call (671) 735-0456.

Fitial assures no reprogramming of $7M money for hospital

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Even though the CNMI Constitution authorizes the governor to reprogram available funds for other purposes during a state of emergency, the Fitial administration said it has no intention of doing so on the $7 million the public hospital is asking from the Marianas Public Land Trust.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial emphasized this in a press briefing Thursday at the Kagman Community Health Center where he assured that all pennies that will be drawn down from the MPLT credit line will go to the needs of the hospital.

A law that provides an additional $7 million line of credit to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has already been enacted but the funds have not yet been made available pending the corporation's submission of several requirements to MPLT.

MPLT board chair Pedro Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* that MPLT is holding on to the money until both the corporation and the Office of Attorney General submit some documents as parties to the loan agreement.

Deleon Guerrero revealed that an informal meeting took place between the MPLT lawyer and corporation representatives on Tuesday, but this does not bring the "final agreement" to a close.

"Until we are clear [with all the requested documents and records], we can't move forward," he said, adding that the $7 million is intended not to be drawn down at once but on a per-need request only by the corporation.

Once the $7 million becomes available and has been deposited to either the corporation's account or the Finance Department, MPLT will have no more say on the funds, Deleon Guerrero said. This means, he said, that the governor can reprogram them under the emergency declaration.

Fitial said his office is working with the corporation to make sure that the MPLT money is spent "prudently and wisely."

CULTURAL CENTER ACTIVITIES

Aroskatdu and Folded Paper Sculpture

The Tinian Chamorro-Carolinian Cultural Center is offering free lessons to Chamorros and Carolinians on making *aroskatdu* and folded paper sculptures today, June 30, 2012, at the Tinian Senior Citizen Center Pavilion. The lesson will start at 9am. Bring your children so they, too, can learn the traditional ways of the Chamorros and Carolinians.

These activities are offered by the Association of Native Medicine and Culture, in partnership with the Community and Cultural Affairs, Office of the Mayor (Tinian), and funded in part by the Administration for Native Americans. For more information, call 433-9220 on Tinian and ask for Raymond Sablan. ***(PR)***

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Kilili: High Court ruling means benefits for NMI will continue

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind.-MP) expressed relief yesterday after the U.S. Supreme Court announced it had upheld the Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare. The result of the ruling is that the many benefits the people of the Northern Marianas are already receiving from the health care reform law, which Congress enacted in 2010, will continue.

"Health care is a basic human need," said Sablan. "And today's ruling means that the people of the Northern Mariana Islands will continue to get help from the Affordable Care Act to address the health care emergency in our islands.

"We worked very hard in Congress and with the Administration to make sure that territorial areas received some of the benefits of Obamacare," Sablan said.

"As a result, over $100 million in new Medicaid money is available for the CNMI. And the government has already drawn down over $8 million of that Obamacare money.

"We have a better federal/local match for Medicaid. It went from 50/50 to 55/45.

"The many consumer protections apply. Insurance companies will not be able to deny coverage because of preexisting conditions, or put limits on how much you can get in a year or over a lifetime, or charge higher rates for women than for men, or take away coverage when you get sick.

"Seniors on Medicare got $250 checks to help with prescription drug costs in 2010. Last year, Seniors in the "donut hole" started getting a 50 percent discount on their medicines, an average of $569.24 in the Marianas. And by 2020 the donut hole – the gap in Medicare coverage for drug spending between $2,800 and $4,550 – will be completely closed.

"Because of the $608,333 start-up grant from the Affordable Care Act the Kagman Community Health Center can now open. People in Kagman are looking forward to getting dental services, prenatal, immunizations, and other primary and preventive care in just a few months, by Oct. 1, I understand.

"The CNMI Department of Commerce received a $1,000,000 grant to help improve regulation of insurance companies, so premiums are fair.

"People who buy health insurance are going to be getting rebates by August 1, if their insurer spent more than 20 percent of premiums on salaries and other overhead instead of on health care. 363 families will be getting notice from their insurer. The average rebate in the Marianas is $782, third highest in the nation.

"The CNMI has received $500,000 for preventive care, and $1,500,000 for Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Programs.

"All of these health care benefits could have been lost, if the Supreme Court had ruled against Obamacare today. Fortunately, that did not happen.

"We do have to be concerned, however. Because the Republican leadership has said that it is still determined to repeal Obamacare in Congress. We cannot let that happen," Sablan said. "We must continue to work for even more improvements in health care for the people of the Northern Mariana Islands."

House Republican leaders yesterday set July 11 for a vote to repeal completely the Affordable Care Act. ***(PR)***

PRINCIPAL

From Page 1

an "e-blaster" on the netbook in 2011 in an effort to monitor his son's Internet use. E-blaster is a commercially available computer and Internet monitoring software program.

Soon after the agent turned over the netbook to Weindl, he began receiving "e-blaster" reports indicating that the netbook was accessing child porn materials on the Internet from about June 15 to June 18, 2012.

Affidavit

In an affidavit he issued in support of the complaint against Weindl, FBI special agent Edmund H. Ewing basically reiterated the narrative stated above.

He said a special agent is in the process of transferring from the FBI Saipan Field Office to the FBI field office in the mainland.

In early June, as the school year was coming to a close, the special agent's son advised his father that he needed to surrender his PSS-issued netbook to Whispering Palms School.

On June 8, 2012, the special agent took the netbook to a computer company and asked the service technician to repair a scratched screen and erase the hard drive so as to delete all of the schoolwork and programs on the netbook.

While the special agent did not specifically request the removal of the "e-blaster" software from the netbook, he did intend that all data and programs, including the e-blaster software, be removed, Ewing said.

That same day, June 8, the special agent turned over the netbook to Weindl and informed him that the netbook had been wiped clean.

On June 14, the special agent received an email from e-blaster showing activity for his son's netbook. A similar report came in the next day. When the agent reviewed the reports, he noted that the visited websites appeared to contain terms indicating the presence of child pornography.

That same day, the agent contacted Weindl on the phone to try to determine whether the principal had given the netbook to somebody else. So as not to raise any suspicion, the special agent told the principal he was interested in purchasing the netbook. Weindl allegedly told the agent he had already turned over the netbook to PSS and that he would be unable to buy it because it was purchased with federal funds.

The principal was unable to tell the agent the name of the person at PSS to whom he had given the netbook.

On June 18, the agent went to PSS offices in Susupe, but each of the individuals he spoke to could not recall anyone returning a computer.

At 2:21pm that same day, the agent contacted Weindl by phone and told him that he was concerned that the computer may have some inappropriate materials on it.

Weindl told the agent the had had done some checking after the agent's call on June 15 and determined that the computer has been "recirculated."

On June 15 and 18, the special agent again received more "e-blaster reports."

The agent provided Ewing a total of five e-blaster reports. The reports include numerous online searches of child pornographic materials, manually performed from the netbook.

Ewing said that he and the special agent interviewed Weindl at his office on Navy Hill on Thursday, June 28, during which they informed him that the netbook was from a federally funded grant and that they were investigating its disappearance.

Weindl explained he was embarrassed because the laptop had gone missing and he did not know where it was.

Ewing then informed Weindl that there was specific information from the computer indicating that had been used to view pornographic materials, and that activity was associated with him.

Ewing said Weindl then admitted the netbook was not stolen and that following his use to view pornographic materials, he broke it into two pieces and threw it into the "boonies."

Ewing said the principal stated he used the netbook on his desk at school where he viewed pornographic websites.

When asked why he performed Google searches on 11-year-old girls, Weindle stated it was his own "morbid curiosity" or "inappropriate curiosity."

Following the statements, the FBI agents arrested Weindl.

SAD DAY

From Page 1

tion. Truly, it's a very sad day for the CNMI," press secretary Angel Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

The Fitial administration projected $5 million to $7 million in additional direct and indirect tax revenues from Saipan Air's operations, and the governor was poised to revise his $102 million budget submission for fiscal year 2013.

The additional projected revenues were meant to restore most government employees' 80 work hours biweekly, after two years of having 16-hour pay cuts per payroll.

But the Fitial administration is "not completely" giving up on revising the $102 million budget, down from over $200 million just a few years back as the economic conditions worsened as a result of the demise of the garment industry, uncertainties related to immigration, and a downturn in tourism.

"The administration is still analyzing budget figures through the weekend. A decision on any form of budget revision could come as early as Monday," Demapan said.

Douglas Brennan, president of the 150-member Saipan Chamber of Commerce, separately said yesterday that a lot of businesses in the CNMI were looking forward to increased business if and when Saipan Air begins its operations, but the circumstances of the past few days are beyond Saipan Air's control.

"It's a sad day. Saipan Air put a lot of effort, time and money to it. Everybody was looking forward to additional airline seats. It's a big disappointment that it's not going to happen but it's something beyond Saipan Air's control," Brennan said.

Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan) said last night that Saipan Air "would have helped revive the tourism economy."

"My thoughts are now with the employees who will not have employment. As I understand, some have left their prior jobs to work for Saipan Air," he said.

Rep. Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan) said Saipan Air's operations "would have been a big boost to the CNMI economy, the revenues derived from it by the businesses and the government would have been great."

"It's disappointing for the business and I don't blame Saipan Air because it was beyond their control. Their business partner, Swift Air, that was supposed to provide the airplanes but didn't deliver on that promise," Palacios said, adding that he wishes Tan Holdings well in its other business ventures.

Palacios said it is also time for the CNMI to be open minded about other proposals to boost the economy such as legalizing casino gaming on Saipan.

"It's not a 100 percent guarantee but at least open the door," he said.

House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) said it is "sad" and "unfortunate" that it has come to this.

"I totally understand why a decision to cease operations had to be made. I feel for Tan Holdings and the Tan family," Camacho said.

He believes Tan Holdings will be able to survive this ordeal and continue its success if not in the area of airline, then in other businesses.

Tan Holdings, the parent company of *Saipan Tribune*, own major businesses in the CNMI and in the region, including hotels.

Saipan Air received notice of cancellation from Swift Air a week before Saipan Air's scheduled July 1 launching despite Saipan Air's payment of $1.26 million in security deposits and good faith negotiations with Swift Air.

Swift Air later filed for bankruptcy.

House Commerce and Tourism Committee chair Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan) said he hopes it will turn out well for Saipan Air.

"And if there is any way my committee or the Legislature can help, I stand ready to assist," he said. During presentations early this year, Saipan Air's launching is set to increase arrivals by 22 percent in 2012 alone and by 97 percent in 2015. Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan had spoken of a private sector-driven economic recovery, optimism, belief in the CNMI and its people, not losing track of the only industry that fuels growth which is tourism, and the launching of the CNMI's first local airline called Saipan Air.

SAIPAN AIR

From Page 1

vented Tan Holdings from filing its earlier planned civil lawsuit against the off-island firm.

Once a bankruptcy case is filed, it stops all legal proceedings and, according to Pixley, this changed the whole landscape of the situation.

For now, he said, Saipan Air is pursuing efforts to seek the help of law enforcement agencies for possible criminal activities by Swift Air. Besides the complaints filed with the FBI, company lawyers in New York are also working on the matter, Pixley added.

He said Saipan Air is looking at potential criminal activity of Swift Air officials and the company is analyzing its legal status and rights under the bankruptcy case at this time. He believes they have a "strong case" against the company and its officials.

"So we're focusing now on individuals who own this entity and protecting our rights in bankruptcy proceedings."

He hinted that Saipan Air is looking at suing Swift Air officials in their individual capacities, which bankruptcy laws may allow.

In the meantime, Pixley said that Tan Holdings looks forward to working with the community in other business opportunities to enhance the CNMI as a destination of choice.

Saipan Air, he said, acknowledges the hard work and effort expended by its staff and travel partners toward building the first locally based air service.

Swift Air terminated its contract with Saipan Air on the evening of June 24, citing reasons that Pixley described as "bogus." He said Swift Air cited its failure to obtain certain Federal Aviation Administration certification for terminating the contract.

However, Pixley said they discovered that Swift Air didn't pay the vendor who is responsible for conducting the inspection, so no certification was issued. He added that following receipt of the termination notice, Saipan Air immediately conducted a teleconference with its officials, but things did not work out.

Pixley said they also discovered that Swift Air issued an internal email advising its personnel that Saipan Air was the one that terminated and breached the contract.

"Swift Air posted an internal memo that says we breached and terminated the contract, which is more evidence of fraudulent conduct," he said.

Based on the list of creditors holding the largest unsecured claims against Swift Air, Saipan Air discovered that cases and claims have been filed against the company. Pixley revealed that Swift Air was also found having some tax liabilities with the Internal Revenue Service and a Florida-based company filed a $900,000 lawsuit against Swift Air for nonpayment of aviation fuel. These and others, he said, are exclusive of the list of creditors in the bankruptcy filing.

Millions of dollars in damages

Pixley said that Saipan Air incurred millions of dollars in damages from this debacle. In addition to the $1.26 million wire transfers to the off-island company, a large amount was also spent preparing for the business.

Among these expenses are the major renovations made to the Fina Sisu Terraces for the airline's crew and personnel, the establishment of a new office at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport, and the hiring of personnel for the anticipated operation.

Saipan Air hired 23 flight attendants who were on training when the decision to postpone the launch was made. Saipan Air's sister company, POI Aviation, also hired 35 additional workers in preparation for the business.

When asked about the company's plan for these personnel, Pixley said: "We're working on that now, we're trying the best we can to these people. It's a very difficult situation and again, this circumstance is beyond our control." He said there is a process going on for the affected personnel.

Additionally, he said tickets have already been sold in both China and Japan for the flights. He gave a conservative estimate of losses incurred in excess of $2 million.

Are you 18 years or older?

Have you been providing unpaid services to family members?

Been dependent on the income of another family member but no longer supported by that income and are you unemployed or underemployed and experiencing difficulty obtaining or upgrading employment?

If you answer "Yes" to all of these questions, contact WIA at (670) 664-1704/5, 7 & 8 (Saipan), (670) 433-1700 (Tinian), or (670) 532-1701 (Rota). You may be able to qualify for services as a Displaced Homemaker under WIA's Dislocated Worker Funding Program. All other program eligibility requirements applies.

Dislocated Worker Funding Program

- **U.S. Citizen or Registered Alien**
- **Meet Selective Service Requirements**
- **Have received the required Eligibility for services**
- **Must be 18 years or older**

Category A: General Dislocated Workers. To qualify, an individual must meet the following three criteria:

1. Has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff, form employment;
2. Is eligible for or has exhausted entitlement to unemployment compensation; OR has been employed or attached to the workforce for a duration sufficient to demonstrate to WIA, but is not eligible for unemployment compensation due to insufficient earnings or having performed services for an employer that were not covered under a state unemployment compensation law; and
3. Is unlikely to return to a previous industry or occupation.

Category B: Plant Closure. To qualify, an individual must meet one of the following three criteria:

1. Has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff, from employment as a result of any permanent closure of, or any substantial layoff at, plant, facility, or enterprise;
2. Is employed at a facility at which the employer has made a general announcement that such family close within 180 days; or
3. For purpose of eligibility to receive services other that training, intensive or supportive services under WIA, is employed at a facility at which the employer has made general announcement that such facility will close.

Category C: Self Employed or Unemployed. To qualify, an individual must meet the following criteria:

1. Was self employed (including employment as a farmer, a rancher, or a fisherman) but is unemployed as a result of general economic conditions in the community in which the individual resides or because of natural disasters.

CONTACT INFORMATION
Saipan: (670) 664-1704/1707/1708/1757 • **Fax:** (670) 664-1710
Tinian: (670) 433-1701 • **Rota:** (670) 532-1701
Email: gov.wia@pticom.com

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

High Court makes right call; will voters?

Conservatives were dismayed by the Supreme Court's ruling on health care reform Thursday. But in fact, Chief Justice John Roberts, the swing vote, was the court's only member to act in truly conservative fashion.

He did this in at least two ways: He followed the conservative call for justices to demonstrate judicial restraint, looking for ways to let laws passed by democratically elected representatives stand if possible. At the same time, he delivered a landmark blow to liberals' broadening of the Constitution's Commerce Clause, taking away one of the primary vehicles for the federal government's expansion.

In ruling the way he did (and it was his ruling), Roberts created another conservative-friendly reality: Voters are back at the top of the food chain. Only elections can do away with health care reform now.

Stymied by the nation's highest court, Mitt Romney and Republican congressional leaders reiterated Thursday that repealing the Affordable Care Act will be their first order of business. So Americans have a clear choice in November: Whether to give Republicans control of the House, the Senate and the Oval Office and thus ensure the death of health-care reform.

That's a question that forces voters to decide whether they want to go back to a system that leaves 50 million people uninsured in the world's richest country. A system that denies insurance coverage to—or even drops coverage from—the very people who need it most. A system that enriches insurance and pharmaceutical companies at the expense of regular folks. A system in which if you lose your job, you lose your insurance, and could be on the road to bankruptcy. A system that allows insurance companies to limit how much they will pay in benefits over a customer's lifetime.

That's what would be at stake with repeal. What would replace current law is anyone's guess, because reform opponents haven't said. Precious little, most likely.

Critics plan to build support for repeal by labeling the Affordable Care Act as a giant tax increase on the American people. In fact, it will only be an increase for the 4 million or so people (out of 311 million) who can afford health insurance but choose to risk not having it. And they are merely being forced to pay into a system that they will eventually need, rather than foisting their costs on to the rest of us. (Which is the rationale, incidentally, that prompted conservatives to create and for years support the idea of an individual mandate before President Obama adopted it as a compromise.)

Obama's health care reform only began to tackle the problem. It provides coverage to millions of people who wouldn't otherwise have it. But it does little to slow rising medical costs, eliminate waste or improve health outcomes. Congress should focus on those challenges, rather than on repealing a measure that has now been approved by all three branches of government. They might also focus on saving Medicare, which is barreling toward insolvency.

Chief Justice Roberts pulled off a three-fer on Thursday. He protected vitally important legislation, and did so in a way that confirmed his reputation as a true conservative. And in doing all this, he avoided eviscerating the Supreme Court's reputation as an institution above the political fray.

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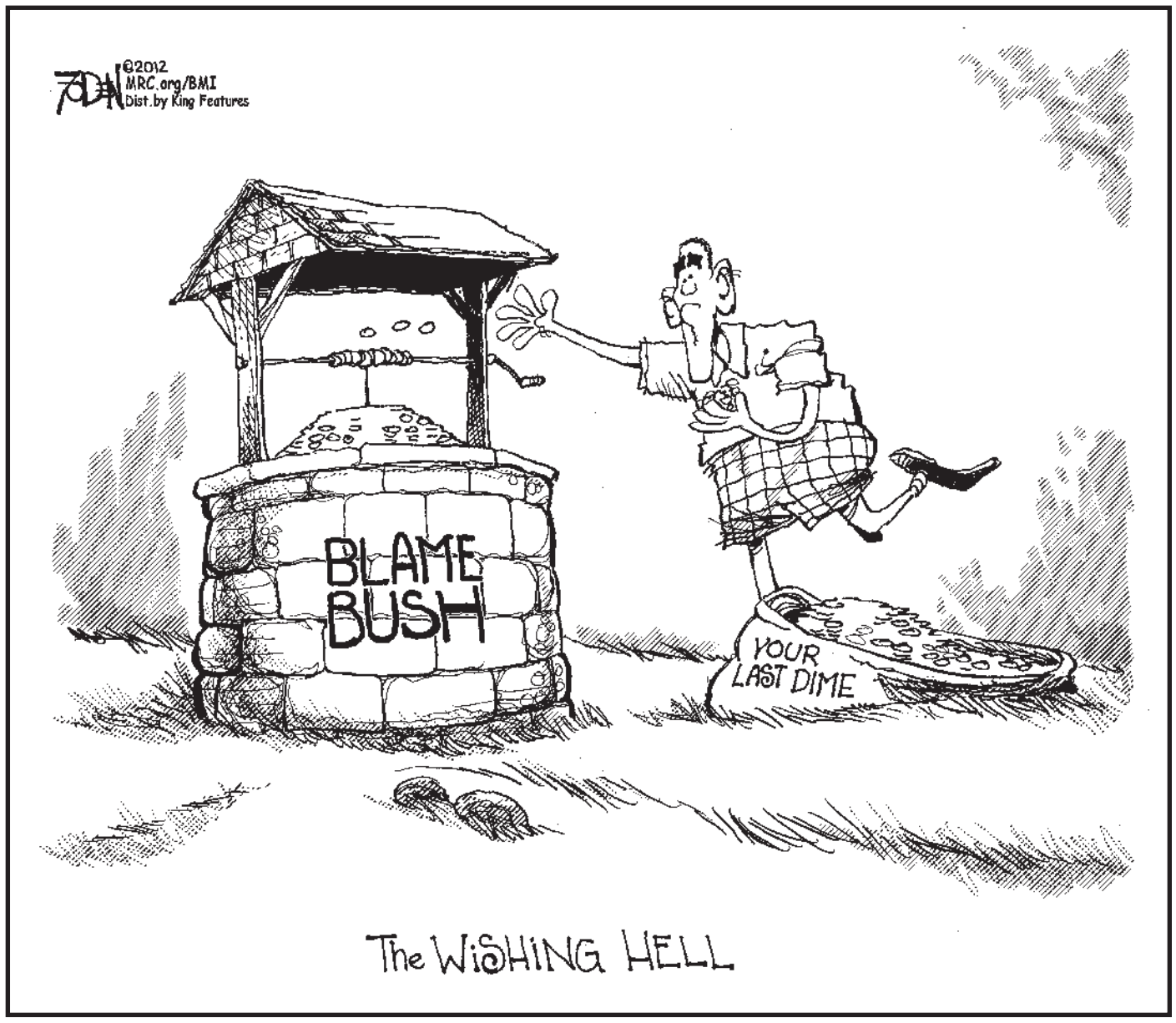


A win for Obama, a political issue for Romney

By CARL LEUBSDORF
The Dallas Morning News

Carl P. Leubsdorf is the former Washington bureau chief of the Dallas Morning News. *Readers may write to him via email at: carl.p.leubsdorf@gmail.com.*

The Supreme Court's dramatic decision to uphold the Affordable Care Act gives President Barack Obama a major political victory. But the controversial measure now becomes a major election issue and its future will remain in doubt at least until voters render their verdict this November.

That's because presumptive Republican nominee Mitt Romney has pledged to scrap the plan Obama hopes will become his lasting political legacy, something he would be in position to do if he unseats the incumbent and fellow Republicans keep the House and win the Senate.

"If we want to get rid of Obamacare, we're going to have to replace President Obama," Romney declared after the decision, denouncing the plan as "a job killer" that would raise taxes and increase the deficit and vowing he would do on the first day of his presidency "what the court did not do."

On the other hand, Thursday's 5-4 decision means that an Obama re-election victory would probably ensure that the plan enacted after a bitter 15-month battle remains on the books, despite continuing resistance by congressional Republicans and many GOP governors.

Similarly, a split electoral verdict in which Democrats at least retain the Senate will make it harder for a Republican president to scrap the plan though he might be in position to change and possibly cripple it.

Obama called the decision "a victory for people all over the country whose lives will be more secure because of this law," citing specific benefits like those protecting people with pre-existing conditions and warning critics against refighting the political battles of two years ago.

He acknowledged that, even if he wins, the plan likely will face changes over time. In fact, no one really knows how its complex details will work, and it also remains unclear if it will succeed in slowing the soaring costs of health care as the goal of universal coverage is pursued.

Beyond its impact on America's health programs, Thursday's decision will have a major impact in defining the Supreme Court tenure of Chief Justice John Roberts. By joining the court's four liberal members to uphold the Obama law, Roberts underscored his promise during confirmation hearings to approach cases with "no agenda," rather than from an ideological viewpoint

Conservative critics had counted on the court's five Republican appointees to reject the measure's key mandate requiring all Americans to purchase health insurance through private companies, regional networks or a federal alternative or be subject to a payment.

Ironically, that concept was initially a Republican idea and was part of the plan Romney enacted in Massachusetts, as Obama observed Thursday.

The mandate is crucial because it provides the funding to pay for extending health insurance to more than 30 million Americans who lack it today.

But though Roberts questioned the constitutional authority for it in last March's oral arguments, he joined with the four Democratic appointees to uphold it, not under the constitutional authority to regulate interstate commerce but under the taxation authority.

Though the decision settled the issue of the law's constitutionality, the reaction made clear it won't come close to ending the bitter debate over the degree to which the federal government should regulate the nation's health care.

If Romney wins, he has vowed that, on Day One of his presidency, he would grant all 50 states waivers to opt out of the federal program and would follow that up with legislation to kill the plan through the same budget reconciliation process Obama used in 2009 to get his bill through the Senate.

That procedure bars unlimited debate and means that 51 of the 100 senators can act, instead of the 60 needed to surmount the Senate's filibuster rules.

Ironically, the court appears to have given the GOP nominee an additional campaign weapon to use against Obama by defining the required payment for those forsaking insurance as a tax. Republicans immediately noted that Obama had promised his plan would not raise taxes on middle-class Americans.

In the end, despite feverish rhetoric by critics, any hope of getting rid of the Obama plan now rides almost totally on the election results. But the nation still faces major health care issues, and Thursday's decision makes it more likely that Obama's Affordable Care Act will be the vehicle to deal with them.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The power of images

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

The power of images has been with us since Park Avenue discovered how it can get us to salivate when looking at photos, making us prone to purchase products that appeal to our titillated preferences.

Or our sense of unworthiness. In the '60s, on the Southside of Chicago, were Cadillac billboards with black man escorting platinum blonde damsels, the GM exploited status symbol at the time! In the CNMI, we watch big boys fight over who gets credit for benefits from Obamacare!

Images come in big pictures that provide context for feelings, thoughts, and deeds. The more comprehensive the picture, the broader the parameters of our freedom. I post the image of the blue planet Earth on the back wall of my classroom, calling it my hometown, avoiding being cramped in the confines of nation-state allegiances.

Small pictures at the local level determine personal expenditure. The more detailed the image, the clearer the depth of authenticity and responsibility. Acknowledging myself to be male, on the 5th turn of a 17-year-per-phase journey, irrepressibly fearless of adventure, continually in awe in the awesomeness of human existence, and acting as the perpetually awed one, well, you know how my rhyme goes.

I could not find a clip of the opening scene of the John Travolta movie *Look Who's Talking,* where countless sperm race to get into the good graces of a single ovum, but this term I located an actual physiology clip. I show it to my students. I tell them that my father gifted my mother 200 million sperms in a moment of dalliance, one of them getting through the crust of the egg to fertilize what came out to be me.

I do not tire of telling this story (I've written about it often in this page). At the moment of conception, I was already a winner in the biggest lottery of my life, and the fact that the ovum was actively involved in choosing who gets into her warmth, I was conceived also in an act of freedom. Free choice and a winner, I am. Then I turn around, point to members of my class, and say, *"so are you, and you, and you ..."*

Though scientifically accurate, this is pure theatre, though not the gung-ho rah-rah-rah variety. We deliver an image to a throng of young minds whose heretofore context for their individual identity is that they will have to first pass a test to qualify as humans worth of respect and dignity. Or rely on their palms to determine fate and destiny. Baloney, I thunder! *Your challenge is to live the winner-ness and freedom you already are,* I sanctimoniously intone, and invite them to 16 weeks of Oral English lessons to explore the wonder of it all without needing to apologize for "speaking poor English." ChEnglish is fine, we add.

The wily human factor in life's existence creates images. Our use of the term "human" does not come from prescribed or ideal definitions. It is simply the recognition and the celebration of just what is. *Just as I am without one plea,* we sang in our youth.

Religion has been the vehicle for freighting powerful symbols in history, like the crucifix, the empty tomb, the Hindu *Om*, the star of David, the *Taiji* (yin-yang), tantric practices, and others.

Unfortunately, religious zeal falls more often on the limits rather than the possibilities of the human spirit. The swastika remains a symbol of Aryan supremacy, Masonry hides behind the veil of esoteric rites and rituals (we were a DeMolay in our youth so we know from whence we speak on this last one). Fundamentalists derive energy in the lucidity of their faith but tend to be exclusive and parochial. Hillary and the United States chant the "We are No. 1" refrain to the world!

We have been actively foisting the image of "glocalization," merging the complimentary polarity of the '70s slogan "to think globally, act locally." The Nihonggo *dochakuku,* making the global local, was used in the '80s to refer to the manufacture of something locally from a model elsewhere. This was translated into English as "glocal" that started showing up in the *Harvard Business Review.*

Separately, we started using the term at about the same time but were not too serious about creating a new term until we started writing for this paper. Tired of using quotation marks, we Googled the term, and sure enough, its use was already in vogue among developmental economists.

Glocalization now has its own Wikepedia writeup, but the reality of thinking globally, acting locally remains a rare occurrence. Jingoism stands in the way.

My daughter's response to an article I forwarded from this page was: *Dad, you really are off the grid!* Indeed, being *glocal* means stepping out of the familiar into the cutting edge of what-is-not-yet! Being global in perspective, and local in imperative is, for now, being off the grid.

Pedagogical image-making is our vocation. Humanity created demonic ones. My top 10 list includes: 1) Earth's indestructibility, 2) democracy's inevitability, 3) fossil-fuel's invincibility, 4) benign population growth, 5) primacy of patriarchy, 6) racial supremacy, 7) necessary theocracy, 8) just wars, 9) equitable banking, and 10) tolerated poverty.

Happily, they can be uncreated, off-the-grid!

Telltale signs: Temperatures rising in the Shoal

By RODEL RODIS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send comments to Rodel50@gmail.com or mail them to the Law Offices of Rodel Rodis at 2429 Ocean Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94127 or call 415.334.7800].

Occupying the full top of the front page of the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* on June 19 was a color photo of one Chinese soldier raising the red flag of China and another holding a survey rod on the Scarborough Shoal. The news article that accompanied the photo ("*China ships stay in Panatag Shoal*") reported that "Beijing had not expressed any intention of withdrawing its service ships from Scarborough Shoal."

The day before, President Benigno S. Aquino III had announced that the two Philippine Navy vessels stationed in the Shoal—in a standoff with 92 Chinese vessels there since April 10—were being recalled back to port "consistent with our agreement with the Chinese government on the withdrawal of all vessels from the shoal's lagoon to defuse tensions" in the area."

After the Philippine ships left, China's ships stayed and occupied the Shoal as the *Inquirer* front-page photo appeared to confirm.

The Philippines had been snookered by China once again as occurred in 1994 when Philippine Navy ships left the Panganiban Reef—otherwise known as Mischief Reef—because of a typhoon, only to return after the monsoon to find China's Navy occupying the reef—only 87 miles from Palawan and almost 600 miles from China. China has since constructed a concrete fortress on Mischief Reef.

After the *Inquirer* published its news online, an emergency national telephone conference was called by members of US Pinoys for Good Governance—the group that sponsored the May 11 global protests against China's intrusion in the Scarborough Shoal—to discuss the implications of this new escalation of the conflict.

What the group members feared had materialized, China had occupied the Shoal.

In the course of the two-hour-long telephone conference, frantic calls were made to Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs officials to verify whether China had actually seized control of the Shoal. But no verification was obtained before the conference call meeting ended so another conference call was set for the next night if the Chinese occupation of the Shoal was confirmed.

The next day, Philippine Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin warned that if China did not withdraw its ships from the Shoal, then he would order the return of Philippine Navy ships.

The return of the Philippine Navy raised the specter of an incident in 1988 when Vietnamese navy sailors sought to restore the flag of Vietnam on Johnson Reef in the Paracel Islands off Vietnam. When the Chinese flag was removed, the Chinese Navy fired on the unarmed Vietnamese sailors and massacred 77 of them. Video footage of the massacre was filmed by the Chinese Navy and broadcast in China to show the resolve of the mighty Chinese People's Liberation Navy.

Could this bloody Vietnam scenario be repeated in the Scarborough Shoal?

Not according to Max Boot. In his June 24, 2012 article which appeared in the *Wall Street Journal* titled "China Starts to Claim the Seas" where Boot asserts that "in fact China is the classic bully with a glass jaw."

Boot cites the example of the tiny Pacific nation of Palau with a population of just 20,000. "In late March, at virtually the same time that the Scarborough Shoal standoff was beginning," Boot writes, "a Chinese fishing vessel illegally entered Palau's waters. When the poachers ignored repeated demands that they leave an area designated as a shark sanctuary, police from Palau's Fish and Wildlife Division opened fire, trying to sink the offending vessel."

"The result: one fisherman dead and 25 captured. A couple of weeks later, under the terms of a deal with China, the poachers were fined $1,000 each and flown back home. The Chinese must have been furious, but their diplomat on the scene had nothing to say except "it is a good outcome."

As speculation mounted about whether China would react as it did in Vietnam in 1988 or as it did in Palau in April of 2012, news came from DFA officials that the photo used on the front page of the *Inquirer* was a 10-year-old photo that was posted on the China Embassy website. China has not physically occupied the Shoal and planted its flag there, at least not yet.

On June 22, members of the US Pinoys for Good Governance joined members of the US Vietnamese community in mounting a demonstration in front of the United Nations building in New York to protest China's "creeping invasion" of the Philippines and Vietnam. Leaders of the two communities announced that they were launching a nationwide boycott of China-made products.

According to Eric Lachica, "if even one million, out of the four million Filipinos in the U.S., stop buying Chinese products or goods, we will create a huge financial penalty on China."

While an economic boycott of China directed at Walmart stores was being launched in the U.S., the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* reported on June 25 that "a Chinese vessel last week rammed a Philippine fishing boat north of the disputed Scarborough Shoal in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea), killing a Filipino fisherman and leaving four others missing."

The article reported that the ramming of the Philippine boat causing the death of Bolinao fisherman Christopher Carbonel "may have been the first casualty in the dispute between China and the Philippines over Scarborough Shoal." Two days earlier, the state-owned China News Agency reported on Saturday that a Chinese official had ordered navy ships to target "Filipino vessels that hang around" Scarborough Shoal "and don't leave."

"The order of Rear Adm. Yin Zhuo, director of the People's Liberation Army Navy's Information Expert Committee, came as an answer to President Aquino's statement on Wednesday that he would order Philippine vessels back to the shoal if air surveillance found China still had vessels there."

The CNA reported Yin as saying Chinese naval troops should board and search Philippine government ships and private fishing vessels. In doing so, Yin said, Chinese troops "must try to maintain restraint, not force, not hurt people" when going after Philippine ships found in waters near Scarborough Shoal.

But he affirmed to Communist Party *People's Daily* that China's Navy would not hesitate to use deadly force against its enemies.

The following day, the Philippine Coast Guard announced that a Hong Kong-registered commercial ship, the *Peach Mountain*, was most likely the vessel that rammed a Philippine fishing boat in the West Philippine Sea on June 20, killing a Filipino fisherman and leaving four others missing.

But was it an accident?

Not according to Ted Laguatan. "The collision was not accidental," he wrote. "It is a big wide ocean out there and for small boats, it's practically impossible to have collisions. Also, if it was accidental, the Chinese would have attempted to save the Filipino fisherman. This was intentional to provoke the Philippines and see what kind of capability and resolve the Philippines has in holding on to its territories and see also how America will react."

"Malacanang and DFA will naturally say it was accidental because of the implications involved if they tell the people it's intentional. It means a direct confrontation with China which of course will blatantly just confirm our military weakness and incapability to defend," Ted wrote.

Blogger Perry Diaz from Sacramento, California summed up the tense situation in the Shoal: "Without warships and warplanes, the Philippines is at the mercy of China who is claiming the entire South China Sea (West Philippine Sea), East China Sea, and Yellow Sea as an extension of her continental shelf. If nobody challenges her wholesale claim to these three contiguous bodies of water that extend from the southern tip of Japan all the way to Indonesia, China could choke the shipping lanes in the region, thus preventing vessels from other countries from passing through her "territorial waters."

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 5 to 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 5 to 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87 ° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

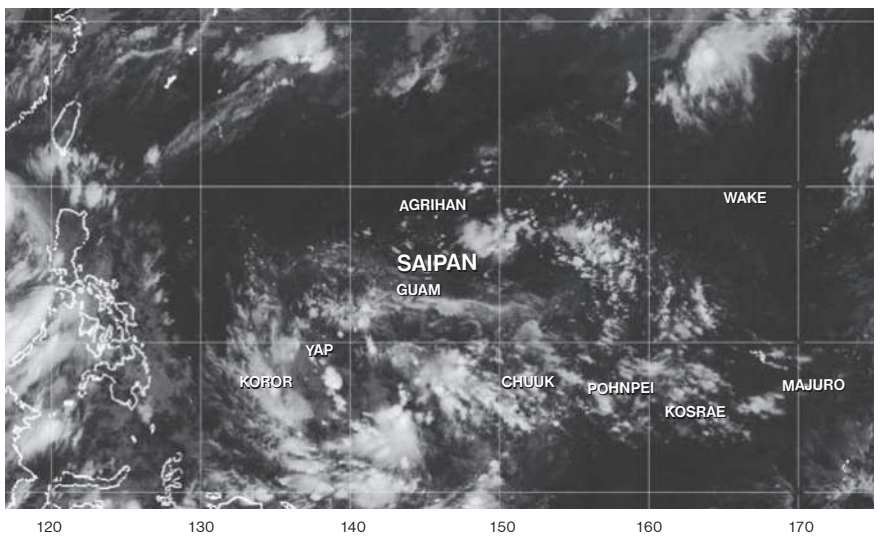
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲86	▼81
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼75
Yap	Showers	▲90	▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼74
Kosrae	Showers	▲86	▼74
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲56	▼46
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲92	▼70
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲88	▼82
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼72
London	Showers	▲68	▼55
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲78	▼61
Manila	Thundershowers	▲90	▼79
Melbourne	Showers	▲53	▼44
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲91	▼77
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲93	▼75
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲81	▼73
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼57
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲79	▼71
Rome	Sunny	▲94	▼70
Salem	Showers	▲75	▼59
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼57
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲83	▼71
Tokyo	Showers	▲74	▼66
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲102	▼80

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends southeastward from 13N130E through a broad circulation centered southwest of Chuuk at 4N146E to end at EQ151E. Converging northwest winds south of the trough axis are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Koror or west of a line from 10N130E to 4N135E to 1N130E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the circulation are present south of Guam or south of a line from 11N137E to 13N151E. An upper-level low is centered east of Saipan near 15N150E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring between 15N and 19N from 148E to 154E. A trade-wind disturbance is producing widely scattered to scattered showers across Kosrae state and the Marshall Islands between 4N and 13N from 161E to 174E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near Tarawa and Butaritari Atolls between 1N and 6N from 174E to 180. Another upper-level low is centered east of Wake Island at 18N174E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present between 18N and 24N from 174E to 180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:10 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
11:42 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
6:42 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
11:28 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Monday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Tuesday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Wednesday	5:51 AM	6:52 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:12 PM	1:59 AM
Sunday	4:15 PM	2:54 AM
Monday	5:18 PM	3:54 AM
Tuesday	6:19 PM	4:57 AM
Wednesday	7:15 PM	6:00 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 13, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30pm	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5071	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English
Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro
Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro
Parish office hours:
Monday-Saturday
8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm)
Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated)
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass
Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm.
Telephone no. 285-0273

Santa Soledad Mission Parish
Monday: 6pm
Tuesday: 6pm
Wednesday: 6pm
Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass)
Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass)
Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am,
Saturday: 4-6pm
Telephone no. 256-4568

Saint Jude Parish
Monday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 7am
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm
Office is close every Thursday and Saturday
Telephone no. 288-0007

San Antonio Parish
Monday-Friday 6pm
Saturday: 6pm
Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children)
Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm
Close on Sunday and Monday

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English
Monday and Tuesday:6am Chamorro
Wednesday:6pm English
Thursday: 6am Chamorro
Friday: 6am English
Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog
Sunday: anticipated mass

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am
Monday-Friday: 7pm
Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass
Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament
Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass
Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass
Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm
Thursday: day off
Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm
Telephone no. 234-6991

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English
Monday: 6pm English
Tuesday: 6pm English
Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil
Thursday: 6pm English
Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays)
Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass
Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm
Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143

San Vicente Parish
Monday-Friday: 6pm,
Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month)
Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm
Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm
Parish office hours: daily 9-11am
Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 8am
Monday: 6pm (1st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm)
Tuesday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm
Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm

PROTESTANT

Amen Church
Sunday : 10am, 1pm, 5pm Wednesday : 7pm Friday Prayer : 9pm Bible Study : 4pm (Tue) Music Practice : 5pm (Sat) Korean class: 3:30pm (Thu) Visitation : 10am(Fri, Sat) Outreach : 8am (First Sat) Tel. No. 285-2121, 256-2221 Email : oseyo@daum.net

Born Again Christian
(Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm
Telephone no. 234-6026/27

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services:
Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm
Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm
Telephone no. 235-8540

Church 360
Suite 103 of Marianas Business Plaza (1st floor of former Nauru Building).
Contact www.church360saipan.org, info@church360saipan.org, or call 888-2116
Celebration Service: Sundays at 10:15am
Prayer Fellowship: Thursdays at 6:30pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am
Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm
Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm
Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm
As Perdido Road
Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 235-8590
Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 10:00am
Place: Garapan, Plumeria Road,
Call 285-6081 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am
Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service)
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio
Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week)
Telephone no. 322-5680

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (English)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church
Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa
(east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral)
Worship Service: 9:00am
Children's Sunday School: 9:00am
Choir Practice: 8:00am
Singspiration: 8:30am
Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm
Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158

Immanuel Methodist Church
(Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)
(Korean Congregation)
Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm
Wednesday evening service: 8pm
Daily morning prayer: 5am

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am,
Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm,
Wednesday: 7:30-9pm

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9:20am
Sunday Adult: 11am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Living Hope Church of the Nazarene
Isa Drive, I-Denni Hill across from Ponderosa Heights
Bible Studies for all ages: Sunday at 10:00 am
Worship: Sunday at 11:00 am
Pastor Dave Bucher, 256-1142

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service: 10 am at Seventh Day Adventist church on Quartermaster Rd.
Wednesday Service: 7 pm at Fina Sisu Housing FS#1
Contact Nick for more info: 287-1661

Marianas Bible Fellowship Center
Sunday School: 9-9:30am
Divine Worship: 9:30-11am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch)
Sunday worship 8:30am
Sunday evening 7:00pm
Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm
San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel
Telephone: 789-7566

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 10-11am
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm
Thursday Bible Study: 7pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church Koblerville
Sunday services:
Sunday school 9:00am
Morning worship 10:00am
Evening service 6:00pm
Wednesday evening bible study 7:00pm

Chinese services
Sunday morning 10:00am
Sunday evening 7:00pm

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church.
Telephone No: 285-4661/2

Thy Word Ministries Saipan
Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi

Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian
Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Victorious Christian Church
(Formerly God's Victorious Army)
Sunday 8:30am to 10:30am - Worship Service
Monday 7:00 pm - Women's Fellowship
Tuesday nights - Home cellgroup
Wednesday - 7:30pm to 9:00pm Mid Week Service
Friday 7:30pm to 9:00pm Prayer Meeting
Saturday nights - Praise and worship practice
Last Friday of the month - Overnight praying meeting
Pastor Brendon Perez - Tel# 2359246

Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call *Saipan Tribune* at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jun. 30, 2000

CNMI Bar donates $5K for pre-law program
The CNMI Bar Association yesterday donated $5,000 to Attorney General Herbert Soll for the summer pre-law program. Acting CNMI Bar Association president Maya Kara, executive director Remy Sablan and Perry Inos, member of the committee, presented a check to Mr. Soll to cover the expenses for this summer's program involving 18 students. This is the seventh time that the summer pre-law program is held on the island. The program will conclude today with a moot court competition, which starts at 1:00 p.m. in the Supreme Court.

PIBBA delegates note advancement in language standards
Panelists representing the five political entities of the Pacific Islands Bilingual Bicultural Association conference yesterday disclosed major advancements in the Indigenous Language Development Standards in their respective islands as a result of the PIBBA conference held in Kosrae last year. During an open discussion, the association grouped together island leaders who shared to other participants improvements on the development standards in their respective entities. This tradition has been set to measure the impact of the yearly meet which tackles concerns besetting bilingual and bicultural issues throughout the Pacific.

Jun. 30, 2003

DPS, HPD make it to top 5
The CNMI Department of Public Safety and the Honolulu Police Department achieved a milestone at the 2003 DARE Training Conference by making it to the top 5 DARE Training Centers. It was learned that with the combined efforts of the State of Hawaii Training Center and the CNMI DARE Training Institute, the two law enforcement departments placed third among all DARE Training Centers in the nation. The criteria were based on professionalism, management, mentor performance, training outline, number of successful graduates, and trainings and activities beyond requirements to better the trainers.

NMIRF appeals for 2 more trustees
The NMI Retirement Fund has urged Gov. Juan N. Babauta to nominate two new Board of Trustees, to replace two members whose terms expired on June 6. Fund administrator Karl T. Reyes said that, with the terms of Marian Tudela and Thomas Saures having expired, the board seats that are required by law to be filled by a Carolinian and women representatives are now vacant. Reyes said that the Babauta administration has already been informed about this and asked it to nominate their replacement.

Jun. 30, 2004

5 DPH clinics temporarily closed
The Department of Public Health has closed five peripheral clinics and facilities for lack of power and water following the onslaught of Typhoon Tingting Monday. DPH Secretary James U. Hofschneider said yesterday the clinics closed were: Afetnas/ San Antonio Wellness Clinic, Children Development Assistance Centers in Garapan, HIV/STD Resource Center in Navy Hill, Community Guidance Center, and Medicaid Office on Capitol Hill. Hofschneider said these facilities will be opened as soon as the power and water supply are restored. All other clinics of the Commonwealth Health Center, he said, are open. These include the Family Care Clinic for Adults, Women's and Children's Clinic, Dental Clinic, Chest Clinic, and Walk-In Clinic. He said the satellite clinic in San Roque is also open. Meantime, DPH spokesman John Douglas said there have been no typhoon-related emergency cases reported.

Retroactive salary bill OK'd
The money is not in the bag yet but a bill that Gov. Juan N. Babauta recently signed brings past and present government employees much closer to getting the retroactive salary adjustments promised them under Public Law 7-31. In a letter to House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial and Senate President Joaquin Adriano, Babauta informed the Legislature that he has signed into law House Bill 14-169 that waives any statute of limitation defense against current and former employees who are entitled to the payment of the retroactive salary increase provided by law. Babauta said the measure also relieves the Department of Finance of liability for unpaid overtime compensation, in situations where documentation of overtime hours worked were not kept or maintained.

Maharlika

Consulates' aircon mechanic students now US certified

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Twenty-two graduates of Domestic Refrigeration and Aircon Mechanic Batches 1 and 2 offered by the Philippine Consulate General and the Philippine Overseas Labor Office are now U.S.-certified after passing the Section 608 certification approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The successful examiners will be recognized in tonight's graduation ceremony at the Chalan Kanoa Beach Club, said Ignacio "Jhun" D. Bañadera.

Bañadera, who was among the 22 passers, said in a phone interview yesterday that they were divided into two groups, with one group taking the exam on April 28 and the other on May 5.

The exams were administered at Chong's Corp., the results of which came out recently.

Both groups took the certification exam after finishing the EPA 608 review course and hands-on training led by Bañadera, Roger Ginocor, and Edwin Desin at the Joeten CK barracks from Feb. 5 to April 29.

The EPA-approved Section 608 certification is needed to service building air conditioning and refrigeration systems.

Bañadera said the certification exam cost $110 per person, plus another $15 for review materials.

"After we finished the basic refrigeration and aircon mechanic course, we really worked at getting U.S.-certified," he recounted. "We were so tense after taking the exam but when we found out that we passed, we were very happy. We're so excited and we hope to have a good graduation ceremony."

Bañadera noted that their certification is an "accomplishment" for the instructors but more so on the graduates who took the review to pass the exam.

"As reviewers, it brings us great satisfaction that they passed the certification exam because that means we were effective in our teaching ways and methods and that they absorbed what we taught them," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Essentially, being U.S.-certified means being able to handle Freon, according to Bañadera. "Moreover, we can now service aircon units because of the certification."

Bañadera said the 22 individuals will form part of the Marianas Institute of Certified Refrigeration and Aircon Technicians Inc. or Microntech, which is in the process of being licensed as a non-profit corporation on island.

Officers include Bañadera as president, Desin as vice president-internal, Ginocor as VP-external, and Roginia "Ging" Bañacia as secretary.

Microntech, Bañadera said, will be at the forefront of more domestic refrigeration and aircon mechanic trainings since POLO has limited space available to accommodate this course, along with other livelihood trainings it offers to Filipino workers for free.

The graduates of this course can now take up the troubleshooting and mastery components of domestic refrigeration and aircon mechanic, which will be spearheaded by Microntech. "We informed POLO that these will be a continuation of their reintegration efforts," said Bañadera.

He disclosed that Microntech is now conducting review classes for Batch 3 composed of some 20 individuals who are also aiming to become U.S.-certified mechanics.

"We're optimistic that they will pass the certification exam since we're effective with Batch 1 and 2," added Bañadera.

Consulate officer in charge Jose M. Sto. Domingo praised the 22 individuals for demonstrating that "you can succeed as long as you're focused and have the will to do it."

"This is what we're made of. We have the intellectual capacity and talents which cannot be replicated by others," he added.

For her part, POLO officer in charge Julia Fabian said they are "very proud" of the new U.S-certified mechanics.

"They are the ones who validate that our livelihood training program is successful and rewarding," said Fabian.

102-year-old man becomes US citizen

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A 102-year-old Filipino man who came to the U.S. as a youth in 1928 to pick vegetables became a citizen during a touching naturalization ceremony in Los Angeles.

"I'm happy," Philippines-born Joaquin Arciago Guzman said in his native Tagalog after Wednesday's ceremony, where about 7,300 joined him in taking the citizenship oath.

Only 27 people older than 100 have become citizens in the past 50 years, according to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

"It's extremely rare to see anyone over 100," said Nancy Alby, the agency's field office director for Los Angeles County. "We get a handful in their 90s and 80s. It's more common to see people in their 70s."

The oldest person ever to become a citizen was Manik Bokchalian. She was 117 when she took the oath in 1997.

Guzman's niece and caregiver helped him out of a wheelchair to stand during the Pledge of Allegiance, the *Los Angeles Daily News* reported.

"I'm happy for him. There are no words," niece Julie Guzman said in Tagalog.

Guzman's daughter-in-law Elizabeth Guzman regretted that Guzman's wife, Paz, did not live to see the ceremony. She was 89 when she died in 2007.

AP

North Hollywood resident Joaquin Arciago Guzman, a 102- year-old military veteran participates in a naturalization ceremony Wednesday, June 27, 2012. He was one of more than 7,000 people to become naturalized citizens during ceremonies at the Los Angeles Convention Center Wednesday.

"It's sad because she waited many years for him to become a citizen," Elizabeth said in Tagalog. "But I believe she's looking down on us now, and she's happy."

Guzman left the Philippines to harvest lettuce and cabbage in the fertile fields south of San Francisco.

He returned to the Philippines and married Paz Irene Gatchalian, the came back to the United States before the birth of the first of their six children.

Guzman brought his wife and two of their adult children to the United States in 1984. They became American citizens, but Guzman waited to submit an application for reasons that aren't clear.

UFO to join Liberation Day float contest

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The United Filipino Organization will take part in the 2012 Liberation Day float competition after skipping the contest last year.

Float committee chair Leo Cañedo said yesterday that the network of some 30 Filipino organizations in the CNMI submitted their participation form to the Saipan Mayor's Office on Tuesday.

The group began working on their float entry last night in Susupe based on this year's theme, "Enlightening Our Culture, Courage, Freedom, & Unity."

Float entries will be judged on originality, creativity, design, workmanship, balance, effective utilization of natural materials, presentation, and overall appeal. Prizes for the float competition are $1,500 for first place, $1,000 for second place, and $500 for third place.

"Ever since I can remember, UFO has been a consistent participant in the Liberation Day float competition to represent the Filipino community in the annual event, except in 2011 when we only joined in the parade but not the contest due to budget limitations," Cañedo told *Saipan Tribune*.

While the organization does not have a specified budget this year, Cañedo noted that they have been receiving donations of materials such as plywood and nails as well as technical expertise from generous sponsors on island.

He disclosed that Hawaiian Rock Product provided them with the heavy equipment truck they could use as the base of the float.

"We really solicited from private businesses and individuals because we want to pull off the float in time for the July 4 parade," added Cañedo.

The committee chair expressed optimism that many individuals from member organizations of UFO will help out in making the float to promote camaraderie within the group and demonstrate their support for the biggest community event on island.

To donate, provide manpower support or for more information, call 285-6469.

Sign up for free training programs at consulate

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Philippine Overseas Labor Office officer in charge Julia Fabian is urging all interested Filipino workers to sign up for their free training program for the third quarter of 2012, noting that these courses will be among the last ones that the Philippine Consulate General and POLO will offer before its closure after Oct. 31.

The training courses are Basic Fruit Carving, Basic Computer Operations II, Basic Mandarin II, and Advanced Nihongo.

Fabian disclosed that as of yesterday, 47 individuals have already signed up for BCO II, which will be taught by Jousel Regilme every Saturday from 8:30am to 12:30pm from July 7 to 28.

For the Basic Fruit Carving course, 14 Filipino workers have already registered and will be trained by instructor Eduardo "Edong" Elenzano for four Saturdays from 1pm to 5pm from July 7 to 28.

Both language courses, which are scheduled to begin on Sunday, July 1, only have a small number of enrollees, according to Fabian.

"We encourage Filipino workers on island to avail of these training courses to acquire or improve skills that they can use to better themselves personally and professionally," Fabian told *Saipan Tribune*.

Fabian pointed out, though, that they expect to have an influx of interested individuals signing up for the training in the days closer to its starting dates.

Given the Consulate's impending closure, Fabian said they are trying to squeeze in their activities within the amount of time they have left.

Fabian said that training courses will be conducted until August, followed by the last health screening in September.

"After the September health screening, we would be pressed for time trying to accomplish our inventory work as well as report writing," said Fabian, who will return to the Philippines with staff Antonette Ocon after Oct. 31.

Fabian said they are still finalizing their plan to turn over the training courses to a Filipino organization on island.

New guidelines for applying for PH passports

By FAT REYES
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—The Department of Foreign Affairs on Thursday said that the new guidelines it released would make the passport application process simpler and easier for Filipinos.

"We are making a promise to the Filipino and that promise is to make it easier for them to apply for their passports," Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario said in a statement. Del Rosario said that under the new guidelines, he gave the DFA Office of Consular Affairs until December 31 to put in place a dedicated call center that would allow passport applicants to choose the date and time they would like to be accommodated in any DFA consular office nationwide.

"This appointment system and other measures that the DFA has been taking during the past several months will significantly reduce if not eliminate the long lines that have been associated with the passport application process," Del Rosario said.

The new guidelines also include a target for the DFA to open the first 13 consular offices in Metro Manila and other key cities before the end of the year.

It also required all DFA mall-based offices to operate beyond regular office hours from Mondays to Saturdays to accommodate applicants who could not be absent from work or school. The offices would also be open for three hours on Sunday to accommodate applicants.

The guidelines also cover an order to decentralize authentication services and make them available in Metro Manila, San Fernando, Pampanga, Cebu, and Davao, as well as the accreditation of travel agencies for them to continue assisting applicants until December 31.

DFA has been conducting a transfer of DFA consular services to shopping malls nationwide under public-private partnership agreements.

DFA entered into memoranda of agreement with private firms operating malls nationwide, including SM Prime Holdings, Ayala Land, Robinsons Land Corporation and Pacific Mall Corporation.

Roxas: Waves, not ship, sank Philippine fishing boat

By CHRISTINE O. AVENDAÑO, GABRIEL CARDINOZA
INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON, PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Here comes a different version of the Bolinao "ramming" incident—it may not have happened after all.

From interviews with the Pangasinan survivors, the foreign cargo vessel previously thought of as having rammed and sunk the fishing boat AXL John might not even have hit it, although it might have sunk the boat because of the big waves it kicked up as it was passing through.

One fisherman was killed, four others were missing while three survived when the fishing boat sank on June 20 in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea).

Quoting the three surviving fishermen of the AXL John, Transportation Secretary Manuel Roxas II on Thursday said the fishing boat sank after the foreign vessel, believed to be registered in Hong Kong, swept past them with great force.

Swamped by waves

Roxas said that before the cargo vessel surged past, the two-engine fishing boat was already docked in an artificial reef after experiencing motor problems.

"They tied their boat (to the reef) so they won't drift … and while there, the cargo vessel passed by (but) did not ram them…," he told reporters at the Manila International Container Terminal in the Port of Manila, where he attended the inauguration of a berth owned by the International Container Terminal Services Inc.

What might have happened was that the huge waves kicked up by the passing vessel rocked the fishing boat, according to Roxas.

"There were big waves and the more they (the fishermen) were battered (lalo silang naalog)," Roxas said.

PCG probe

Roxas said it was possible the foreign vessel did not see the boat, or saw it and tried to avoid it.

"We really do not know. This is all speculation," he added.

Roxas told reporters it was better to wait for the outcome of the investigation of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), which has already coordinated with the Hong Kong maritime department.

Roxas and Vice Admiral Edmund Tan, head of the PCG, said they were awaiting the reply of the Hong Kong authorities to their request to locate the foreign vessel.

'Hong Kong' markings

The survivors earlier said their boat was struck by a cargo vessel that bore markings on the stern reading "Hong Kong" and other markings that looked like Chinese characters.

Roxas said the survivors were starting to get better from the hypothermia they had suffered and were able to give their version of what happened.

Asked what specific charges the government might file against the cargo vessel, Roxas only said there was a maritime convention that required ships to "give succor and assistance if you pass by an accident or to someone needing help" at sea.

But he said he did not know if there was a penalty for violation of this particular convention.

Storm hampers search

Roxas said the PCG helicopters combing the area where the boat sank had not spotted any sign of it.

On Thursday, as Tropical Storm "Dindo" crossed northern Luzon, the Coast Guard suspended its search for the missing fishermen.

Navy Lieutenant Jomark Angue, operations officer of the PCG district in northwestern Luzon, said the storm had prevented his men from resuming their aerial and surface search operations.

"But we are still conducting foot patrols along the coastal areas of the Ilocos provinces," Angue said in a telephone interview.

On Wednesday, the PCG deployed a helicopter and a tugboat to scour the waters west of Ilocos Sur for the missing Amante Resonable, Fred Celino, Arnold Garcia and Domy de los Santos of Bolinao town in Pangasinan.

Four of their companions were rescued by fishermen from Magsingal, Ilocos Sur, four days after the incident. One of them died in a hospital in Vigan City.

Angue said that after eight days, there was a slim chance the missing fishermen could still be found. "But we will not stop until we find them, dead or alive," he said.

Bolinao Mayor Alfonso Celeste said the only hope the four were alive was if they had been picked up by foreign ships. "It's unlikely," Celeste said by telephone.

Philippine governor says rival tried to kill him

By OLIVER TEVES
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine governor said that his political rival and the main suspect in the 2009 election-related killings of 57 people tried to kill him and his brothers months before the massacre, calling him "powerful, influential and violent."

Esmael Mangudadatu, governor of southern Maguindanao province, testified Thursday at the massacre trial that his predecessor, then-Gov. Andal Ampatuan Sr., had sent hundreds of government soldiers, police and civilian militia to attack his brother's residence in the restive region. About four months after the failed attack, Ampatuan allegedly ordered gunmen to kill 57 people, including Mangudadatu's wife, who were en route to contest local elections.

Ampatuan, his sons and alleged gunmen are among 103 suspects in the long-running trial, the largest in recent Philippine history. They have denied the murder charges.

Mangudadatu's wife, relatives and supporters, along with 31 media workers, were killed Nov. 23, 2009, after they were stopped on a highway by suspected armed followers of Ampatuan, mowed down and buried in mass graves.

Mangudadatu, who was elected governor in 2010, testified that he and another brother rushed to their sibling's residence after it was surrounded by gunmen and armored trucks. He said he prevented the attack by persuading the gunmen, who were led by a distant relative of Mangudadatu, to withdraw.

"I pleaded with him not to kill us. He said, 'This is the order of Andal Ampatuan Sr.,'" Mangudadatu said.

Prima Jesusa Quinsayas, a lawyer representing the victims at the trial, said Mangudadatu's testimony showed that the Ampatuan clan intended to harm Mangudadatu leading up to the 2009 massacre.

Mangudadatu described the Ampatuans as "powerful, influential and violent."

He said their influence was so pervasive that they controlled the military and police in the impoverished province and could even determine the outcome of elections "down to the village chairman."

AP

Maguindanao Gov. Esmael Mangudadatu, whose wife and sister were among those who were killed in the Nov. 23, 2009 massacre of 57 people, in Maguindanao province in the southern Philippines, arrives to testify in the ongoing trial Wednesday, June 27, 2012, at a detention cell which has been converted into a courtroom at Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig city southeast of Manila, Philippines.

Election violence in the Philippines is rampant, especially in far-flung provinces, and the national government has been unwilling or unable to disarm private armies loyal to political warlords. In the southern Philippines, insecurity and lawlessness are exacerbated by a long-running Muslim rebellion and the proliferation of firearms.

The bloodshed usually involves entire clans since political power is shared among family members, who offer each other support and protection.

Mangudadatu said that on the day of the massacre, his wife told him by cellphone that she and others had been stopped by armed men and that she was slapped by Ampatuan's son, Andal Jr.

He said he saw his wife's body the next day in a morgue. She had been stabbed in the back and had gunshot wounds in different parts of her body, including her breasts and genitals, he said.

"I was thinking how they could have been crying out, pleading for pity," he said. "It hurts. I want to remove that from my memory."

On Thursday, presidential spokesman Edwin Lacierda said that the government wants to speed up the trial—which started two and a half years ago—calling it a "blot in our Philippine judicial system." He asked the Supreme Court to find a way to expedite the proceedings without sacrificing justice.

About 60 main witnesses have testified so far at the trial. About 100 suspects are still at large.

Prosecutors say at least six witnesses, potential witnesses and their relatives have been killed since the trial started in an attempt to suppress testimony.

Lacierda said the witnesses who were killed had refused police protection.

Fewer Filipinos say they're poor, hungry

Fewer Filipino families across the country consider themselves poor and hungry, according to a recent Social Weather Stations survey.

According to the survey conducted on May 24-27, an estimated 10.3 million Filipino households, or 51 percent of total households in the country, consider themselves poor, a decline from the 11.1 million households, or 55 percent, recorded in March.

Meanwhile, those who said they were poor in terms of food accounted for 39 percent, which translates to approximately 7.9 million households, a drop from the 45 percent or 9.1 million families recorded in March.

The results of the survey showed that self-rated poverty was down in all locations in the country. It dropped seven points in Mindanao (from 72 percent in March to 65 percent), five points in Metro Manila (from 46 percent to 41 percent), four points in Visayas (from 61 percent to 57 percent), and two points in Luzon, excluding Metro Manila (from 45 percent to 43 percent).

Self-rated poverty was also down by five points in rural areas (from 66 percent to 61 percent in March) while it went from 40 percent to 42 percent in urban areas.

Self-rated food poverty also declined by 11 points in Mindanao (from 64 percent in March to 53 percent in May), five points in Metro Manila (from 30 percent to 25 percent) and six points in Luzon, excluding Metro Manila (from 38 percent to 32 percent). It barely changed in Visayas (from 47 percent to 46 percent). *Inquirer Research*

250,000 OFWs deprived of PhilHealth benefits

MANILA, Philippines—Some 250,000 Filipino workers abroad have been deprived of their Philippine Health Insurance Corp. benefits due to the agency's unreliable encoding procedure, a recruitment industry leader said yesterday.

"The encoding process by PhilHealth is three to four months late and this results in OFW dependents being denied health and hospital benefits since their names do not appear in the PhilHealth data bank," recruitment leader Lito Soriano said.

Soriano noted that the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) processes 75,000 contracts a month while PhilHealth cannot even process the papers of overseas Filipino workers.

He said the situation belies the claims of PhilHealth that OFWs could get more benefits by just paying P3.50 a day

"These OFWs are paying annual premium of P1,200 a year yet their dependents could not avail of the protection provided under PhilHealth," he stressed.

He said PhilHealth data is only up to February, meaning benefits for OFWs have not been available since March.

He also said single OFWs whose parents are not yet 60 years old are excluded from the services of PhilHealth. "This is unfair for 40 percent of OFWs leaving each year as they pay for PhilHealth, but their parents who are their dependents cannot avail of the benefits," Soriano said. He said amendments to laws on PhilHealth may have to be made to correct the situation.

Meanwhile, PhilHealth reported that only 36 percent of the towns and cities in the country have accredited Maternity Care Package (MCP).

In a statement, PhilHealth Accreditation Department head Dr. Narisa Sugay disclosed that only 607 of 1,646 municipalities and cities have at least one accredited MCP provider.

"Despite the increase in number, our assessment of distribution has revealed that only 607 out of 1,646 municipalities and cities have at least one accredited MCP provider. Clearly, much still needs to be done. But we are very much willing to streamline processes and provide necessary support to get more providers on board," she said. ***(Philippine Star)***

Samu't Sari

CONFIRMED

Senate Committee on Executive and Government Investigations chair Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), right, shakes hand with RR Group LLC principal engineer Roy Reyes, left, after Reyes was confirmed Thursday by the full Senate to serve on the Board of Professional Licensing. The Senate also confirmed two other governor's appointees to BPL: Herman B. Cabrera of Herman B. Cabrera & Associates and Roman S. Demapan, a registered and licensed professional engineer in the CNMI and Guam. The priority now is to approve pending renewal applications and be readmitted to two U.S. national accreditation bodies if and when BPL finds some $40,000 in past due annual fees.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Sen. Henry S. San Nicolas (Cov-Tinian), second from right, congratulates RR Group LLC principal engineer Roy Reyes, left, after Reyes was confirmed by the full Senate yesterday to serve on the Board of Professional Licensing. Looking on are Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), right, and Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian).

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

Coca-Cola Beverage Co. (Micronesia), Inc. and Foremost Foods Saipan, Inc. recently donated beverages and a banner to the CNMI Senior League All-Stars, which will compete at the 2012 Asia Pacific Regional Baseball Tournament in Guam on July 1, 2012. Gerry Hemley, right, sales supervisor, Coca-Cola and Foremost, presents the donation to Derron G. Flores, manager, CNMI Senior League All-Stars.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NEW KAGMAN CENTER

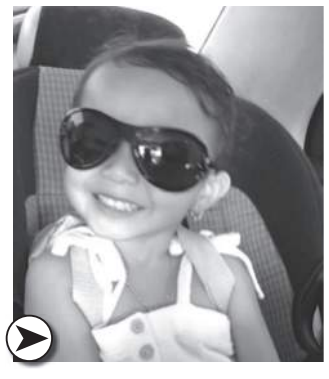
Kagman Community Health Center board chair James Lizama speaks during Thurday's press briefing about the soon-to-open health center in the area while other board members look on. The seven-member board will manage the entire operation of the center in partnership with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. beginning Oct. 1.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Wishing our son Joven T. Reyes a happy, happy birthday as he turns 9 years old today. We wish you all the best, boy! Enjoy your special day with so much love and happiness. We ask the Lord to continue to guide and bless you with many, many more blessed and happy years to come. We love you! Greetings come from Mommy, Daddy, the Boyz, and Grandma.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

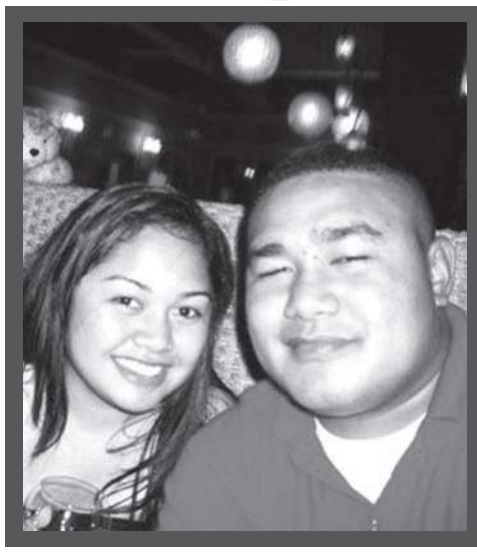


Wishing our little princess, Alana Rita Cabrera Camacho, a happy fourth birthday! May you have many more blessings to come. We love you so much! Greetings come from your Dad, Mom, Boy, and Kiana.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday Jealyn Jane Lizama! Scream loud , jump high , smile big and have a awesome birthday! Love always, Bedbed, Kaikai, and Stacestace.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



NEWLYWEDS

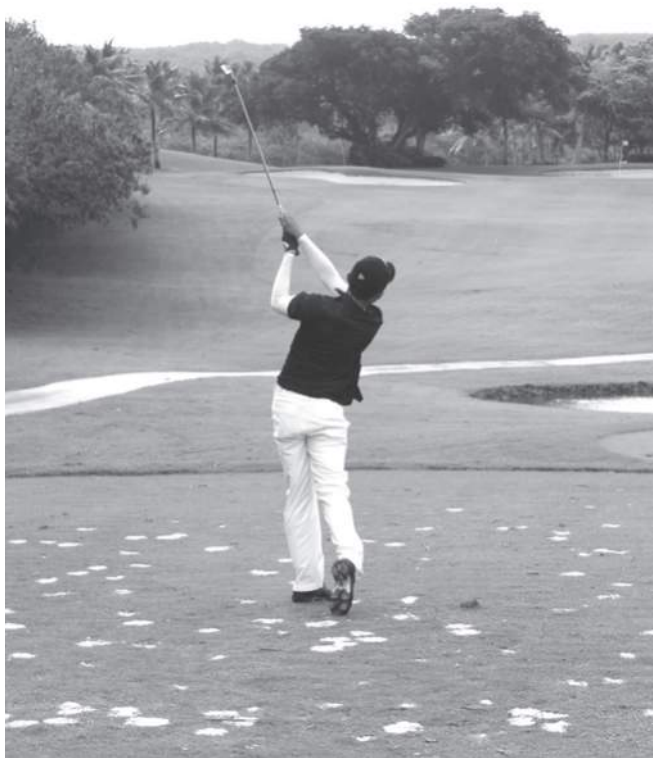
Congratulations to Leiana and Maverick Saures on your wedding day today, June 30! We wish you both long life in consent. Whatever happens, try not to break. No matter sometimes how hard it seems, you don't give up and follow your dreams. Together is always easier to fight, never forget that and stay unite. You know that happiness in everywhere: in dreams, in flowers, in music, and air. So find it together and share your joy, find your own way life to enjoy. Since now stay together, our dear groom and bride, be happy, be joyful side by side. Greetings come from your family and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

GOLF TOURNAMENT

A golfer tees off at last year's Northern Marianas College Foundation golf tournament. This year's 10th Annual NMC Foundation Open golf tournament is scheduled for Saturday, June 30, 2012 at LaoLao Bay Golf Resort.

NMC



Business

European leaders agree to closer long-term union

BRUSSELS (AP)—After tough all-night bargaining, European leaders appeared to salvage what had seemed to be a summit teetering toward failure by agreeing early Friday to funnel money directly to struggling banks, and in the longer term to form a tighter union.

The agreements at a European Union summit in Brussels suggested Germany had yielded a bit on its insistence on forcing tough reforms in exchange for rescue money. That was a victory for Italy and Spain, who have argued they have done a lot to clean up their economies yet are facing rising borrowing costs.

Asian stock markets surged after European leaders agreed to the recapitalization plan and a tighter union. Renewed concerns about Europe's debts have rattled investors worldwide amid fears they could threaten global economic recovery.

The bank decision in Brussels was aimed at helping Spain, which sought a (EURO)100 billion rescue to help its troubled banks.

European Council President Herman Van Rompuy called it a "breakthrough that banks can be recapitalized directly."

In addition, the leaders agreed that EU countries that were following budget rules could apply for bailouts that would not come with the stringent conditions that have accompanied previous EU bailouts—a recognition, said Italian Premier Mario Monti, who pushed for the deal, of the work such countries were already doing in reforming their budgets.

Monti said Italy did not intend to apply for a bailout.

Still, Van Rompuy said the bailout agreement was important.

"We are opening the possibilities for countries that are well-behaving to make use of financial stability instruments, the EFSF and ESM, in order to reassure markets and get again some stability around some of the sovereign bonds of our member states," he said, referring to two bailout funds set up by the EU.

That meant, he said, that there would not be any more countries struggling under the stern conditions that have been imposed on previous EU countries that received bailouts - an apparently sharp change in EU policy.

EU leaders agreed Thursday night to devote (EURO)120 billion in stimulus to encourage growth and create jobs. France had pushed for the growth package, arguing that austerity measures imposed to stem Europe's debt crisis were stifling growth and making it worse.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said after the meetings broke up soon before dawn that she was "very satisfied that we took good decisions on growth."

Van Rompuy said leaders of the 17-nation eurozone also agreed to a joint banking supervisory body. And he said the leaders of the full 27-member European Union agreed to a general long-term plan for a tighter budgetary and political union.

The importance of recapitalizing banks directly became evident when Spain asked for money for its shaky banks. Under current rules the bailout loan had to be made to the government, which would then lend it on to the banks. But having that debt on the government's books spooked investors, who began demanding higher interest rates for lending money to the government.

The result was rates that would have been unsustainable in the long term. Lending the money directly to the banks would avoid putting that debt on the government's books.

The leaders agreed on "the four building blocks" of a tighter European Union—but said they wouldn't start pinning down details until a report in October. The building blocks were laid out in a sweeping document presented by Van Rompuy and colleagues earlier this week that included sharing debt in the form of jointly issued eurobonds.

Van Rompuy said the report expected in October would be "a specific and time-bound roadmap for the achievement of a genuine economic and monetary union."

"The aim is to make the euro an irreversible project," he said.

EU summit

The European Council, made up of the heads of EU member nations, as well as the presidents of the council and the European Commission, will meet in Brussels June 28 and 29.

Top priority: Euro crisis

• Members are expected to consider a fiscal/banking union among euro nations and renegotiating the terms of Greece's bailout

About the European Council

• Created in 1974 as an informal forum for discussion among leaders

• Acquired formal status in the 1992 Treaty of Maastricht, which defined its main function as guiding EU development

• Became one of the seven institutions of the EU in 2009, when the Treaty of Lisbon went into effect

• **President** Herman Van Rompuy (Belgian) since 2009; president serves a two and a half year term, renewable once

• **Meetings** Convened by the president twice every six months, or more often, if needed

© 2012 MCT
Source: European Council
Graphic: Pat Carr

Delta expands largest Wi-Fi-equipped fleet to include international aircraft

SAIPAN—Delta Air Lines will begin offering in-flight Internet service on its long-haul international fleet of more than 150 aircraft, which includes Boeing 777, 767, 747, Airbus 330, and transoceanic Boeing 757 aircraft in early 2013.

The expanded Wi-Fi service will use satellites to provide coverage internationally and will complement the existing air-to-ground service already provided by Gogo for aircraft flying within the domestic U.S.

Delta already operates the world's largest Wi-Fi-equipped fleet of aircraft with more than 3,000 flights daily, including its entire fleet of 550 domestic mainline aircraft. More than 800 Delta aircraft, including all Delta Connection two-class regional jets, are equipped with in-flight Wi-Fi service offering more than 400,000 customers per day access to the internet above 10,000 feet.

The international service will use high-bandwidth Ku-band capacity satellites to provide global coverage. When complete in 2015, Delta will operate approximately 1,000 Wi-Fi-equipped aircraft in its worldwide fleet.

"Delta's advancements in technology have been a key component to our improvements in the customer travel experience and have been cited by J.D. Power and Associates and PC World magazine as important aspects of travel," said Tim Mapes, Delta's senior vice president—marketing. "With our expansion of international Wi-Fi options across our fleet, Delta customers will be able to stay connected throughout their journey."

The expansion of in-flight Wi-Fi to Delta's transoceanic fleet is the latest in the airline's more than $3 billion investment in enhanced global products, services and airport facilities through 2013.

In addition to Wi-Fi improvements, Delta has added more First Class seats and in-flight entertainment to its domestic product; offering full flat-bed BusinessElite seats on its entire international widebody fleet; recently completed the system-wide roll-out of Economy Comfort on all two-class aircraft; adding personal, in-seat entertainment for both BusinessElite and Economy class customers on all long-haul international flights; updating Delta Sky Clubs throughout the system; and upgrading new terminal facilities for international customers at its two largest global gateways—the new international terminal in Atlanta now open and the expanded international terminal opening next May at New York-JFK. ***(Delta)***

News Corp. approves Murdoch plan to split company

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Rupert Murdoch's News Corp. said Thursday that its board has approved a plan to split into two companies, one containing struggling newspaper and book publishing businesses and the other comprising faster-growing entertainment operations.

Murdoch will serve as chairman of both new companies and CEO of the entertainment company. The Murdoch family, which controls nearly 40 percent of the voting shares in News Corp., is expected to maintain control of both companies.

Murdoch

News Corp.'s board unanimously approved the split in principle. It will take a more formal look at the plan's details in coming months. The separation is also subject to regulatory approval and is expected to take about a year.

The split of News Corp. is a symbolic turning point for Murdoch, the company's 81-year-old CEO. Through the years, Murdoch maintained a fondness for newspapers even as he purchased entertainment companies and built a media conglomerate with a market value of $53 billion. In hearings last summer before U.K. lawmakers, he conceded that he regularly called newspaper editors under his employ with the greeting: "What's doing?"

Investors have already applauded the change. Since news of the split broke early Tuesday, News Corp. shares are up 9 percent. They slipped 32 cents, or 1.4 percent, to $21.99 on Thursday.

News Corp. said existing shareholders will get one share of stock in the publishing company for every News Corp. share they own. The exact ratio could change. Each company would maintain two classes of stock, voting shares and non-voting shares.

Murdoch is hoping the television and movie company will be more highly valued by shareholders who had been unwilling to accept the dour growth prospects of the newspaper and book business.

But he now faces the challenge of making the publishing division attractive to investors. Taken as a whole, News Corp.'s entertainment businesses are much more promising. In the nine months through March, the combined cable channel, TV station, satellite TV and movie businesses saw revenue rise 9 percent to $18.66 billion. Operating profit rose 23 percent to $4.17 billion.

By contrast, the publishing arm's revenues and profits have been shrinking over the same period. Revenues declined 4 percent to $6.22 billion while operating profits slipped 22 percent to $458 million.

The entire newspaper industry is struggling. Companies that once spent money for newspaper advertisements have been flocking to the Internet in search of cheaper ad space. Print newspaper subscriptions continue to fall. Meanwhile, digital subscriptions and ads at newspaper companies have been slow to make up for the decline.

"News has been reduced to being a minor part of what we now think of as media," said newspaper analyst Ken Doctor said, writer of the Newsonomics blog. "News needs to be thought of differently and, in a sense, subsidized."

Investors have long pestered News Corp. to get rid of the newspaper business. Murdoch acknowledged Thursday that the idea has been discussed internally for more than three years.

Still, he said he rejects "naysayers" who doubt the long-term future of the printed word.

"The answer is one word: it's digital," Murdoch said to analysts on a conference call. "People are buying pure papers printed on crushed wood, but they are equally getting their news in many other forms."

Even so, Murdoch plans to put money behind those words. To address the concerns of future shareholders, he promised that the publishing division will be split off with "a robust net cash position" to be used for potential acquisitions.

News Corp. had $10.7 billion in cash and cash equivalents on hand at the end of March.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Japan's May factory output down 3.1 percent

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's factory output declined 3.1 percent in May from the previous month as the world's third biggest economy grapples with weaker European demand and an uneven recovery from last year's tsunami disaster. It was the second consecutive month of decline in industrial production, the economy ministry said Friday. It said worsening sectors included autos, chemicals and general machinery. But the ministry expects production to recover in coming months as output picks up in electronic parts and devices, machinery and electrical products. Other data showed the unemployment rate fell in May. Disaster-struck Japan's economic outlook continues to be murky. The economy expanded at a rapid clip in the first quarter, helped by spending on disaster reconstruction, but is unlikely to maintain that pace over the rest of the year.

Oil jumps above $79 after EU deal on Spanish banks

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil jumped above $79 a barrel Friday in Asia, bouncing off an eight-month low after European leaders agreed to use the continent's bailout fund to funnel money directly to struggling Spanish banks. Benchmark oil for August delivery was up $1.60 at $79.29 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell $2.52 to settle at $77.69, the lowest close since October, in New York on Thursday. In London, Brent crude for August delivery was up $1.30 at $92.66 per barrel on the ICE Futures exchange.

Nation

Health care law survives—with Roberts' help

MARK SHERMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—Obamacare lives.

America's historic health care overhaul, derided by Republicans as intrusive, costly "Obamacare," narrowly survived an election-year battle at the Supreme Court Thursday with the improbable help of conservative Chief Justice John Roberts.

The 5-4 ruling now makes it certain that major health care changes will move ahead, touching virtually every American's life. And Democrats, who have learned to accept if not love the GOP label for the law, heartily praised the decision.

But the ruling also gave Republicans unexpected ammunition to energize supporters for the fall campaign against President Barack Obama, the bill's champion—and for next year's vigorous efforts to repeal the law as a new federal tax

Roberts' vote, along with those of the court's four liberal justices, preserved the largest expansion of the nation's social safety net in more than 45 years, including the hotly debated core requirement that nearly everyone have health insurance or pay a penalty. The aim is to extend coverage to more than 30 million people who now are uninsured

The decision meant the huge overhaul, still taking effect, could proceed and pick up momentum over the next several years, with an impact on the way that countless Americans receive and pay for their personal medical care.

The ruling handed Obama a campaign-season victory in rejecting arguments that Congress went too far in approving the plan. However, Republicans quickly indicated they would try to use the decision against him.

At the White House, Obama declared, "Whatever the politics, today's decision was a victory for people all over this country." Blocks away, GOP presidential candidate Mitt Romney renewed his criticism of the overhaul, calling it "bad law" and promising to work to repeal it if elected in November.

Demonstrators for and against the law crowded the grounds outside the Supreme Court Building on Capitol Hill as Roberts, sitting at the center of the nine black-robed justices inside, announced the decision to a packed courtroom.

Breaking with the other conservative justices, Roberts wrote the judgment that allows the law to go forward. He explained at length the court's view of the insurance mandate as a valid exercise of Congress' authority to "lay and collect taxes." The administration estimates that roughly 4 million people will pay the penalty rather than buy insurance.

Roberts, appointed by Republican President George W. Bush, opposed by young Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois and much-criticized by Democrats in recent years, sided with his court's liberals on a major case for the second time this week as the justices concluded their 2011-12 term.

On Monday, he had voted to invalidate parts of Arizona's tough crackdown on illegal immigrants.

In the health care case, Congress had referred to a penalty, not a tax, on people who don't obtain insurance. But Roberts said the court would not get hung up on labels. Among other indications it is a tax, Roberts said, "the payment is collected solely by the IRS through the normal means of taxation."

"Because the Constitution permits such a tax, it is not our role to forbid it, or to pass upon its wisdom or fairness," Roberts said.

Many Republicans oppose the law, arguing that it marks a government takeover of health care at the same time it curtails Medicare spending and raises taxes. They also point to studies that predict private employers will be forced to reduce or eliminate coverage and that the legislation will wind up costing far more than estimated, raising federal deficits as a result.

Stocks of hospital companies rose and some insurance companies fell after the ruling.

The decision should help hospitals by adding millions of people to the rolls of the insured, expanding the pool of health care consumers. But by the same reasoning, insurance companies will also gain millions of premium-paying customers.

The court found problems with the law's expansion of Medicaid, but even there it said the expansion could proceed as long as the federal government does not threaten to withhold states' entire Medicaid allotment if they don't take part.

Justices Stephen Breyer, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Elena Kagan and Sonia Sotomayor joined Roberts in the outcome.

Justices Samuel Alito, Anthony Kennedy, Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas dissented.

Kennedy summarized the dissent in the courtroom. "In our view, the act before us is invalid in its entirety," he said.

The dissenters said in a joint statement that the law "exceeds federal power both in mandating the purchase of health insurance and in denying non-consenting states all Medicaid funding."

The justices rejected two of the administration's three arguments in support of the insurance requirement. Roberts agreed with his conservative colleagues that Congress lacks the power under the Constitution's commerce clause to put the mandate in place.

"The federal government does not have the power to order people to buy health insurance," he said in a part of his opinion that the liberal justices did not join. But his crucial bottom line was: "The federal government does have the power to impose a tax on those without health insurance."

In all, the justices spelled out their views in six opinions totaling 187 pages. Roberts, Kennedy and Ginsburg spent 51 minutes summarizing their views in the courtroom.

The legislation passed Congress in early 2010 after a monumental struggle in which all Republicans voted against it. House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., said Thursday the House will vote July 11 on whether to repeal the law, though such efforts have virtually no chance in the Democratic-controlled Senate.

House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, said the health care law makes it harder for small businesses to hire workers. "Today's ruling underscores the urgency of repealing this harmful law in its entirety," he said.

But Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., heaped praise on the court's decision, and the 2010 law, in a Senate speech. "Passing the Affordable Care Act was the greatest single step in generations toward ensuring access to affordable, quality health care for every American, regardless of where they live or how much money they make," he said.

House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi cast the decision as vindication for her work to secure passage of the far-reaching legislation.

"This decision is a victory for the American people. With this ruling, Americans will benefit from critical patient protections, lower costs for the middle class, more coverage for families, and greater accountability for the insurance industry," Pelosi said.

After the ruling, Republican campaign strategists said Romney will use it to continue campaigning against "Obamacare"—the name the GOP gave the plan In derision, though many Democrats now accept it—and in attacking the president's signature health care program as a tax increase.

"Obama might have his law, but the GOP has a cause," said veteran campaign adviser Terry Holt. "This promises to galvanize Republican support around a repeal of what could well be called the largest tax increase in American history."

Democrats said Romney, who backed an individual health insurance mandate when he was Massachusetts governor, will have a hard time exploiting the ruling.

"Mitt Romney is the intellectual godfather of Obamacare," said Democratic consultant Jim Manley. "The bigger issue is the rising cost of health care, and this bill is designed to deal with it."

Ginsburg, an appointee of Democratic President Bill Clinton, said in her opinion that "Congress followed Massachusetts' lead."

More than eight in 10 Americans already have health insurance. But for most of the 50 million who are uninsured, the ruling offers the promise of guaranteed coverage at affordable prices. Lower-income and many middle-class families will be eligible for subsidies to help pay premiums starting in 2014.

There's also an added safety net for all Americans, insured and uninsured. Starting in 2014, insurance companies will not be able to deny coverage for medical treatment, nor can they charge more to people with health problems. Those protections, now standard in most big employer plans, will be available to all, including people who get laid off, or leave a corporate job to launch their own small business.

Seniors also benefit from the law through better Medicare coverage for those with high prescription costs, and no copayments for preventive care. But hospitals, nursing homes, and many other service providers may struggle once the Medicare cuts used to finance the law really start to bite.

Illegal immigrants are not entitled to the new insurance coverage under the law, and will remain one of the biggest groups uninsured.

Obama's law is by no means the last word on health care. Experts expect costs to keep rising, meaning that lawmakers will have to revisit the issue perhaps as early as next year, when federal budget woes will force them to confront painful options for Medicare and Medicaid, the giant federal programs that cover seniors, the disabled, and low-income people.

The health care overhaul focus will now quickly shift from Washington to state capitals. Only 14 states, plus Washington, D.C., have adopted plans to set up the new health insurance markets called for under the law. Called exchanges, the new markets are supposed to be up and running on Jan. 1, 2014. People buying coverage individually, as well as small businesses, will be able to shop for private coverage from a range of competing insurers.

Most Republican-led states, including large ones such as Texas and Florida, have been counting on the law to be overturned and have failed to do the considerable spade work needed to set up exchanges. There's a real question about whether they can meet the deadline, and if they don't, Washington will step in and run their exchanges for them.

In contrast to the states, health insurance companies, major employers, and big hospital systems are among the best prepared. Many of the changes called for in the law were already being demanded by employers trying to get better value for their private health insurance dollars.

"The main driver here is financial," said Dr. Toby Cosgrove, CEO of the Cleveland Clinic, which has pioneered some of the changes. "The factors driving health care reform are not new, and they are not going to go away."

The Medicaid expansion would cover an estimated 17 million people who earn too much to qualify for assistance but not enough to afford insurance. The federal and state governments share the cost, and Washington regularly imposes conditions on the states in exchange for money.

Roberts said Congress' ability to impose those conditions has its limits. "In this case, the financial `inducement' Congress has chosen is much more than `relatively mild encouragement'—it is a gun to the head," he said.

The law says the Health and Human Services Department can withhold a state's entire Medicaid allotment if the state doesn't comply with the health care law's Medicaid provisions.

Even while ruling out that level of coercion, however, Roberts said nothing prevents the federal government from offering money to accomplish the expansion and withholding that money from states that don't meet certain conditions.

"What Congress is not free to do is to penalize states that choose not to participate in that new program by taking away their existing Medicaid funding," he said.

Ginsburg said the court should have upheld the entire law as written without forcing any changes in the Medicaid provision. She said Congress' constitutional authority to regulate interstate commerce supports the individual mandate. She warned that the legal reasoning, even though the law was upheld, could cause trouble in future cases.

"So in the end, the Affordable Health Care Act survives largely unscathed. But the court's commerce clause and spending clause jurisprudence has been set awry. My expectation is that the setbacks will be temporary blips, not permanent obstructions," Ginsburg said in a statement she, too, read from the bench.

In the courtroom Thursday were retired Justice John Paul Stevens and the wives of Roberts, Alito, Breyer, Kennedy and Thomas.

High court upholds health care law
In a 5-4 vote, Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts joined the court's four liberal justices in upholding the heart of the Affordable Care Act health care law Thursday, ruling that the government may impose tax penalties on those who do not have health insurance . Looking at the decision:
How the justices voted
Chief Justice John Roberts
Voted to uphold
Justice Stephen Breyer
Voted to uphold
Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg
Voted to uphold
Justice Sonia Sotomayor
Voted to uphold
Justice Elena Kagan
Voted to uphold
Justice Anthony Kennedy
Voted law down
Justice Antonin Scalia
Voted law down
Justice Clarence Thomas
Voted law down
Justice Samuel Alito
Voted law down
Roberts wrote the majority opinion ...
We do not consider whether the Act embodies sound policies. That judgment is entrusted to the Nation's elected leaders. We ask only whether Congress has the power under the Constitution to enact the challenged provisions.
Ginsberg wrote an opinion with majority ...
Congress passed the minimum coverage provision as a key component of the ACA to address an economic and social problem that has plagued the Nation for decades: the large number of U.S. residents who are unable or unwilling to obtain health insurance. Whatever one thinks of the policy decision Congress made, it was Congress' prerogative to make it.
Kennedy wrote the dissenting opinion ...
What is absolutely clear, affirmed by the text of the 1789 Constitution, by the Tenth Amendment ratified in 1791, and by innumerable cases of ours in the 220 years since, is that there are structural limits upon federal power—upon what it can prescribe with respect to private conduct, and upon what it can impose upon the sovereign States.
Four legal questions addressed
1 Are the lawsuits premature?
No, hence the ruling by the court
2 Can Congress compel individuals to buy insurance (individual mandate)?
Yes. Chief Justice Roberts delivered the opinion of the Court with respect to this point, concluding that the individual mandate may be upheld as within Congress's power under the taxing clause of the Constitution
3 Can the rest of the law survive if a part is struck down?
Does not apply since all of the law was upheld
4 Can Congress force states to expand Medicaid by threatening to withhold funds?
The court upheld the expansion of Medicaid, but limited the federal government's ability to enforce this provision by penalizing states that refuse to go along
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Source: McClatchy Washington Bureau, MCT Photo Service, AP

Asia

SKorea delays signing of military pact with Japan

TOKYO (AP)—Japan and South Korea agreed on Friday to share intelligence in their first joint military pact since World War II, but then suddenly postponed its formal signing amid a political outcry in Seoul.

The postponement, less than an hour before the ceremony was to be held, was a big embarrassment for leaders of both countries. Japan's foreign minister had earlier Friday called the agreement a "historic event."

The pact had been seen as a breakthrough in ties between two neighbors with a difficult history, but it caused an uproar in South Korea, which was ruled by Japan as a colony for several decades until the end of World War II in 1945.

Japan's Cabinet approved the pact Friday, after South Korea's approval earlier in the week. But Seoul backtracked Friday, saying it would hold off on the formal signing ceremony because of concerns among South Koreans.

Japan's Foreign Ministry said the ceremony was postponed because of a request from Seoul.

Seoul has often been wary of Japan's postwar military development, but the nations have many shared concerns, particularly North Korea and China.

The pact would establish a framework for sharing intelligence in such areas as missile defense, North Korea's nuclear weapons program, Chinese military operations and other regional security matters.

The move to forge the pact reflects deepening mutual concerns that more cooperation is needed to enhance security readiness.

The two countries are increasingly concerned by potential threats from North Korea, which is developing its long-range missile and nuclear weapons capabilities. They are also closely watching the rise of China's military.

North Korea heightened regional tensions in April with the launch of a rocket that was widely criticized as a test of long-range missile technology. The launch was of particular concern to Seoul and Tokyo because they are within reach of the North's missile arsenal.

Such fears spurred the government efforts to cooperate more closely on intelligence sharing, though the pact remains controversial among some in South Korea.

"An accord for military-information protection with Japan is necessary given the ever-growing threat from the North," South Korea's JoongAng Daily newspaper said in an editorial. "The more quality information we have about the North, the better our security."

But critics say the government in Seoul, fearing a backlash from opponents who don't trust Japan, pushed the pact through without allowing enough public debate.

Along with bitter memories from Japan's often brutal colonial rule of Korea, the two countries remain at odds over a territorial dispute that has marred their relations.

AP

South Korean President Lee Myung-bak, left, burns incense for the dead sailors in front of a monument of the second inter-Korean naval clash in Yeonpyeong, during a commemorative ceremony to mark the 10th anniversary of the clash in 2002, at the Navy's 2nd Fleet Command in Pyeongtaek, about 70 kilometers (45 miles) south of Seoul, Friday, June 29, 2012.

NKorean claims South agents tricked her to defect

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—In a rare news conference by a repatriated North Korean defector, a woman claimed she was tricked into defecting six years ago by South Korean agents but was welcomed by the North when she returned in May.

Pak Jong Suk made the account to local and foreign reporters Thursday at the People's Palace of Culture in Pyongyang. The 66-year-old's story could not be independently confirmed.

"I am an ingrate who had betrayed my motherland to seek better living while others devoted themselves to building a thriving nation, tightening their belts," Pak, clad in a pink traditional Korean dress, told reporters in Pyongyang.

South Korea's Unification Ministry said Friday that the woman lived in a neighborhood in eastern Seoul under a different name, Park In-sook, but would not provide further details.

North Korean defector and activist Park Sang-hak said in Seoul that he and the woman lived in the same apartment complex. He remembers her only as an "ordinary woman" who made no political comments to him.

It is unusual for North Korea to hold and televise a news conference for foreign as well as local media featuring ordinary citizens, particularly a former defector. It was not possible to immediately verify whether Pak spoke on government orders or of her own volition, but her comments are in line with North Korea's efforts to rebut recent claims by rights activists and the U.S. that it abuses repatriated defectors.

A Unification Ministry spokeswoman, Park Soo-jin, said during a briefing in Seoul that there was at least one other known case of a North Korean defector returning to Pyongyang from the South and giving a news conference: A defector surnamed Yoo entered South Korea illegally in 1998, then returned to Pyongyang in 2000 and spoke to the media before coming back again to the South in 2001. The defector now lives in South Korea.

During her news conference, Pak said she slipped undetected across the Tumen River from the North Korean city of Chongjin into China in March 2006, after being promised that she would be reunited with her father in the Chinese city of Qingdao. She said she hoped to get money from her father, who went to the South during the Korean War. She said that three months later, after paying smugglers, she was tricked by South Korean intelligence agents into boarding a boat that landed in South Korea.

Pak said her father was unconscious because of brain surgery and did not speak to her before he died, two months after her arrival. She said she lived in South Korea before returning to North Korea by plane on May 25 this year because she had become disillusioned with life in the South. She said defectors are paid by South Koreans to slander North Korea.

The circumstances of how she returned to the North were not clear. She said she lives now in Pyongyang with her son—a teacher—and his wife, who appeared at her side at the news conference, parts of which were later broadcast on state television.

"When I deplaned, quieting my thumping heart, I was stunned by the cordial reception," Pak said, revealing her surprise that she wasn't treated more harshly upon her return.

The U.S. State Department said in its annual human rights report last month that the relatives of defectors face "collective punishment" if a family member defects, and that defectors face harsh punishment if repatriated to North Korea.

Pyongyang denies allegations of human rights abuses.

The Korean Peninsula has remained divided by a heavily fortified border since the Korean War ended in a truce in 1953. Since then, more than 23,000 North Koreans have defected to South Korea, mostly by crossing into China and then making their way to a third country before being sent to the South, according to the South Korean government.

Australia rejects bill to deport asylum seekers

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australian senators on Thursday rejected laws that would have let Australia deport asylum seekers to another country as a way of discouraging them from attempting the long, dangerous boat journeys.

The legislation had scraped through the House of Representatives 74-72 late Wednesday after six hours of passionate debate, amplified by two deadly capsizings of boats filled with Australia-bound migrants in the past week. But the Senate rejected the bill 39 votes to 29 after sometimes tearful arguments.

Four people are believed to have died and 130 were rescued from a boat that capsized Wednesday, but more than 90 people are believed to have died in a capsizing last week midway between Australia's Christmas Island and Indonesia.

The legislation would have let the government deport boat arrivals to another country in Southeast Asia or the Pacific. While many lawmakers see that as the best option for stopping such smuggling attempts, they disagree on where the asylum seekers should be sent.

Currently, they stay on Christmas Island while their asylum claims are assessed, although many have been transferred to the Australian mainland in recent months because of overcrowding at the island detention facilities. The survivors of the two most recent boat capsizings are having their claims assessed there.

Prime Minister Julia Gillard had urged senators to pass the legislation before Parliament takes a six-week break. After the vote failed, Gillard accused opposition leader Tony Abbott of making no effort to compromise.

"Mr. Abbott did not move one millimeter at any stage of this ... while people are drowning at sea," she told reporters.

Abbott, however, accused Gillard of displaying "pride and stubbornness."

Both Gillard's center-left Labor Party and the conservative opposition coalition agree that sending asylum seekers to a third country to have their refugee claims assessed is the best option for putting people smugglers out of business and to curb the flow of boats. But they differ on locations.

The government wants to send them to Malaysia as part of a swap in which Australia would resettle U.N.-recognized refugees from Kuala Lumpur.

The opposition rejects Malaysia and any other country that has not signed the U.N. Convention on Refugees, for fear that the asylum seekers' rights will not be respected. The coalition prefers the tiny Pacific atoll of Nauru, where Australia previously had an immigration detention center.

The opposition could not have defeated the measure on its own, but it was joined by the minor Greens party, which is part of Gillard's minority government. The Greens believe Australia should accept all boat arrivals.

The government previously planned to implement the Malaysian deal without Parliament's approval, but in August 2011 the High Court ruled that such a move would be illegal.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Floods swamp thousands of Indian villages, kill 27

GAUHATI, India (AP)—Raging floodwaters fed by monsoon rains have inundated more than 2,000 villages in northeast India, killing at least 27 people and leaving hundreds of thousands more marooned Friday. The Indian air force was delivering food packages to people huddled on patches of dry land along with cattle and wild elephants. Rescuers were being dropped by helicopter into affected areas to help the stranded. About 1 million people have been forced to evacuate as the floods from the swollen Brahmaputra River—one of Asia's largest—swamped 2,084 villages across most of Assam state, officials said.

Myanmar tells Suu Kyi not to call country 'Burma'

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Authorities in Myanmar have told opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi that she must refer to the Southeast Asian nation by its official name, and not "Burma." The country's former military rulers changed the nation's name in English from Burma to Myanmar in 1989, but opponents and exile groups have persisted in referring to the country as Burma as a sign of protest and defiance. Myanmar's election commission issued the complaint in the state-run New Light of Myanmar newspaper on Friday, saying Suu Kyi had referred to the country as Burma during her landmark trips to Thailand and Europe.

Tanker truck crash sparks fire, kills 20 in China

BEIJING (AP)—A tanker truck filled with gasoline collided with a truck in southern China on Friday, setting off an explosion and a massive fire that left 20 people dead and 14 others hurt. The tanker was carrying 40 tons of gasoline when it crashed into the other vehicle early Friday morning on an expressway in Guangzhou city, capital of Guangdong province, the official Xinhua News Agency said. Oil leaked from the tanker truck and triggered an explosion that set a timber mill and work sheds located under the expressway bridge on fire, Xinhua said. Most of those hurt were workers from the factory and one of them was severely injured, it said.

World

Turkey fortifies Syrian border; bomb hits Damascus

BEIRUT (AP)—Turkey deployed anti-aircraft guns, rocket launchers and other weapons along its border with Syria on Thursday, a military buildup that came as world powers showed new urgency to resolve the crisis before it ignites the region.

A bomb exploded in central Damascus near a busy market and the country's main justice complex, wounding at least three people, damaging cars in a parking lot and sending a black cloud rising above the Syrian capital. It was not clear who was behind the bombing.

Much of the violence that has gripped Syria since the uprising began in March 2011 has been sanctioned by the government of President Bashar Assad to crush dissent. Activists say more than 14,000 people have been killed.

But rebel fighters are launching increasingly deadly attacks on regime targets, and several massive suicide attacks this year suggest al-Qaida or other extremists are joining the fray.

Assad told Iranian state TV Thursday that his country still supports him, and he warned that any intervention in Syria will cause a "domino" effect in the region. He has given similar warnings before, saying the entire Middle East will go up in flames if others meddle in his country.

Turkey, a former ally of Syria, has become one of the strongest critics of the Assad regime, and tensions between the two countries spiked following the downing of a Turkish military plane last week.

AP

A Turkish military truck transports a mobile missile launcher to the Syrian border, near Kilis, Turkey, Thursday, June 28, 2012.

A small convoy of Turkish military trucks towing anti-aircraft guns entered a military outpost in the border village of Guvecci, which faces a Syrian military outpost, according to TRT television video.

Several anti-aircraft guns also have been deployed elsewhere along the border. Some trucks were seen carrying self-propelled multiple rocket launchers, the video showed.

Ties between Turkey and Syria have not been this low since the late 1990s, when the neighbors almost went to war. Tensions ran high in the 1980s and 1990s as Turkey developed military ties with Israel and Syria sheltered Turkish Kurd guerrilla leader Abdullah Ocalan.

Now, Turkey is hosting civilian opposition groups as well as hundreds of military defectors who are affiliated with the rebel Free Syrian Army.

Syria insists the Turkish military plane it shot down on June 22 had violated its airspace. Turkey says the jet had unintentionally strayed into Syria's airspace and was inside international airspace when it was brought down over the Mediterranean by Syria.

The search for two missing pilots continued in Syrian waters but hopes for their survival are dim, Turkish authorities said. The Turkish military said search teams have found some pieces of the plane as well as equipment belonging to the pilots.

Syria's state-run TV said the bombing occurred at 1 p.m. in the parking lot of the Palace of Justice, a compound that houses several courts. The site is near the capital's famous Hamidiyeh Market, an area crowded with families stocking up on food and other supplies for the weekend, which begins on Friday in Syria.

Witnesses reported hearing one blast, but state-run TV said there were two. The report also said a roadside bomb was found but did not explode.

An Associated Press reporter at the scene said some cars were charred and many had windshields blown out.

"I did not see any wounded people, but cars and nearby shops were damaged," said Fawaz Mishhim, who was in a nearby market when he heard the explosion.

The government blamed the attack on terrorists, the term it uses to describe rebels. Syria prevents journalists from working independently, making it difficult to verify accounts from either side in the conflict.

The country has been hit by a wave of explosions in recent months, killing dozens of people. Most targeted government security agencies.

Last month, an explosion targeted a military intelligence compound south of Damascus, killing 55 people. It was Syria's deadliest blast.

U.S. State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland condemned the latest bombing in Syria. She said that "the longer Assad continues on his current course, the longer he perpetrates violence against his own people, he creates the conditions for this kind of loss of control, including in the capital."

Also Thursday, Syria's state-run news agency, SANA, said terrorists assassinated a professor at the Petrochemical Engineering College at al-Baath University in the central province of Homs, along with five of her relatives.

Gunmen broke into her home and shot her, her parents and three nephews, SANA said.

World powers will meet Saturday in Geneva for talks on Syria, but few observers expect a major breakthrough. Syria has the protection or Russia, a veto-wielding member of the U.N. Security Council, and has so far been impervious to international pressure.

National service proposal riles Israeli Arabs

NAZARETH, Israel (AP)—Israel's plan to overhaul its military draft has veered into turbulent new territory with the government's abrupt proposal to mobilize the country's Arab minority for civilian national service.

Israeli Arabs would be asked to perform community service and would not be required to join the army. But the concept of any compulsory government service has stirred a hot debate within the Arab community over its place in the Jewish state, along with fierce resentment over being asked to serve a country that often treats its Arabs as second-class citizens.

The proposal has also created an uproar within Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's ruling coalition, because not all Arabs would be required to serve.

"The state has never sat down with us to discuss the entire array of issues (we have), including our rights and historical rights," said Ayman Odeh, point man on the issue for the influential Israeli Arab umbrella group, the High Follow-up Committee for Arab citizens.

"If the government imposes this on us without sitting down with us, without consultation, without dialogue, we will not obey this law," he said. No Israeli Arab sat on the parliamentary panel crafting recommendations for the new draft bill.

Israeli Arabs are ethnic Palestinians and descendants of those who remained inside Israel's borders after the Jewish state was established in 1948. They make up 20 percent of Israel's 7.8 million people and are largely exempt from the military, though several thousand do serve or perform voluntary community service.

The calls to conscript Arabs into national service are part of a broader overhaul of Israel's draft law, which the Supreme Court has ordered amended by Aug. 1. The original aim was to end sweeping exemptions for ultra-Orthodox Jews, but Netanyahu says national service is a burden that must be shared by all, including Israeli Arabs. Israeli men are required to serve three years in the military, and Israeli women about two years.

The parliamentary committee had expected to release its recommendations for a new draft bill next week. But the panel unleashed a political storm on Thursday when it said it planned to require 6,000 Arabs to perform community service by 2016.

This year, 2,400 Arabs have volunteered for such service, of an estimated 60,000 who fall within the 18 to 22 age group that the national service program would target. Many Israeli Jews think all Arabs, like all Jews, should be compelled to serve.

On Thursday, Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman's Israel Beiteinu Party and another smaller faction quit the committee in protest because Arab service would not be mandatory.

Arab lawmakers, on the other hand, were angry that the proposal had a compulsory element at all.

"Arabs don't have to be the victims of the war of the Jews between Lieberman and Netanyahu," said Arab lawmaker Ahmed Tibi of the Raam-Taal Party.

Not all Israeli Arabs oppose community service, seeing it as a welcome opportunity to help people, expand horizons and improve their Hebrew. Like Jews of draft age who cannot or will not join the military, they would be able to serve in hospitals, schools and other social service settings as a civilian alternative.

But the controversy over the proposal reflects a fierce debate within the Arab community over whether to seek to belong to the Jewish state or be on the outside.

Israeli Arabs have always been in a precarious position, at once citizens of Israel and Palestinians identifying with the statehood aspirations of the West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem. Although they enjoy equal rights on paper, Israeli Arab communities receive far less government funding for schools and public services, and Arabs often face bias in employment and housing.

But many in the community want the government to narrow the gaps between Arabs and Jews before compelling Arabs to serve.

"Why should I do something for a state that doesn't give me everything?" asked Elias Alaa, a 19-year-old aspiring doctor in Nazareth.

His home, the biblical city of 60,000 where tradition says Jesus spent his childhood, has suffered from years of neglect. Like other Arab towns and villages, Israel's largest Arab city is burdened by overcrowding, its potential hindered by run-down infrastructure.

"For years, we've been demanding equal rights. No committee was set up to discuss the equal distribution of rights," said Amal Elsana Alh'jooj, an Arab activist. "So now, when talking about the burden, why are they remembering the Arabs all of a sudden?"Critics also worry that compulsory community service could dilute the Israeli Arab community's Palestinian identity and open the door toward mandatory service in a military that fights other Arabs.

WORLD BRIEFS

Illegal West Bank settlement outpost cleared

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel says it has finished evacuating some 30 settler families from an illegal West Bank outpost. The Ulpana outpost was evacuated in two phases, with the second set of families leaving Thursday night. Police say residents left peacefully, but 15 settlers from outside Ulpana barricaded themselves inside one apartment to protest the eviction. Police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld says officers broke down doors to remove the resisters and arrested six people. The evacuation began on Tuesday. Israel's Supreme Court ordered the outpost dismantled by July 1 because it was built on privately owned Palestinian land. Israel considers such construction illegal, while allowing construction elsewhere in the occupied West Bank.

British police demand Assange report to station

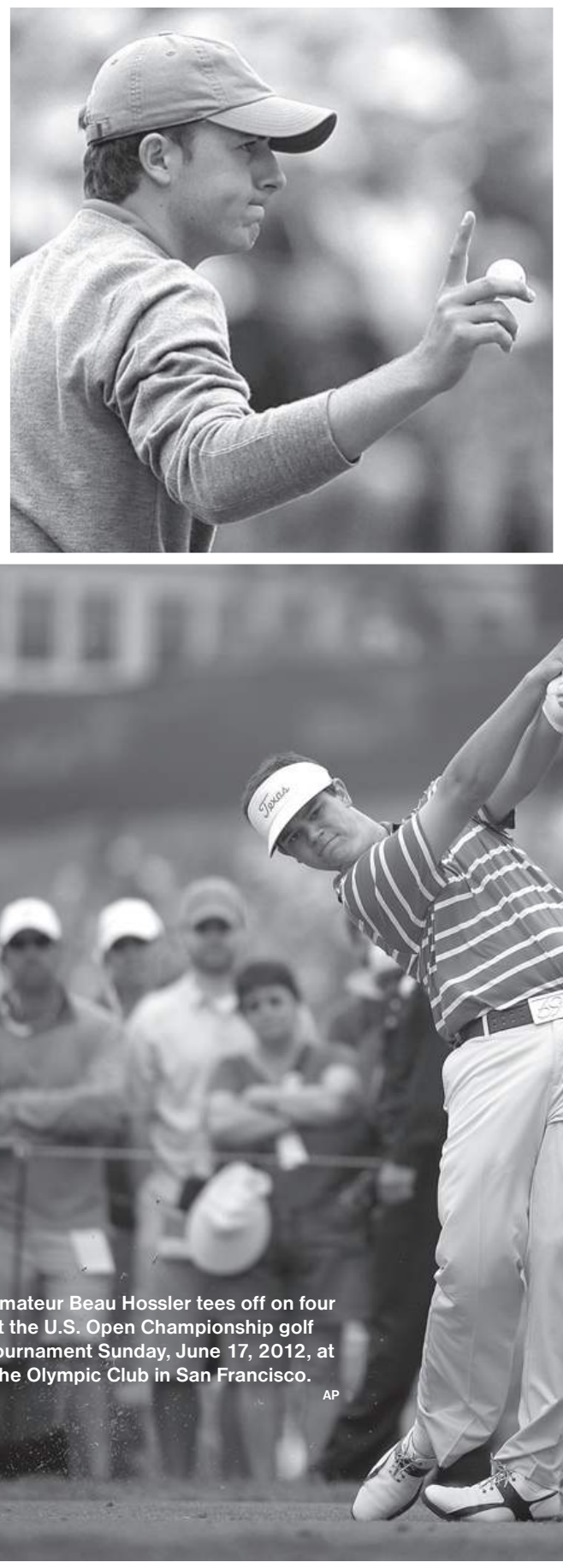
LONDON (AP)—British police served Julian Assange on Thursday with a demand that he report to a police station as the first step in his extradition to Sweden to face sex crime allegations. The WikiLeaks founder said he was unlikely to obey the order to show up on Friday. The letter was delivered to Ecuador's London embassy, where Assange has been holed up for nine days. The Metropolitan Police said it had "served a surrender notice upon a 40-year-old man that requires him to attend a police station at a date and time of our choosing. This is standard practice in extradition cases and is the first step in the removal process."

Islamists push rival rebel out of Timbuktu airport

BAMAKO, Mali (AP)—A resident of the northern Malian town of Timbuktu says Islamist rebels have taken over the city's airport, which had previously served as the headquarters of a secular insurgent group. Oumar Cisse says Ansar Dine, a group that wants to impose Islamic law in northern Mali, is now occupying the airport. He says that when Ansar Dine arrived, they found that rebel fighters belonging to the secular National Movement for the Liberation of the Azawad had already left. Both rebel groups invaded the northern half of Mali in late March. The uneasy truce between them came to an end Wednesday, when Islamist fighters in the northern city of Gao attacked the NMLA's positions in fighting that left at least eight dead.

Youngstyle

Teens Hossler, Spieth play golf like old pros



Amateur Beau Hossler tees off on four at the U.S. Open Championship golf tournament Sunday, June 17, 2012, at The Olympic Club in San Francisco.
AP

Jordan Spieth reacts on the seventh hole during the fourth round of the U.S. Open on Sunday.
AP

By STEVE DIMEGLIO
USA TODAY

BETHESDA, Md.—The new kids on the PGA Tour's block look, talk and play like a couple of old pros.

Teenagers Beau Hossler and Jordan Spieth—whose combined ages still make them younger than tournament host Tiger Woods—are the only two amateurs playing in the AT&T National, which begins today at Congressional Country Club just outside the nation's capital.

But the good friends and future teammates at the University of Texas are not overwhelmed by the 118 pros in the field, including 11 major championship winners, nor are they fearful of the Blue Course that is primed to administer a beating. And the two will not shy from the looming spotlight.

For these two youngsters, playing on golf's biggest stage is becoming old hat.

"It's still me and my caddie and the golf course, no matter all the media, who's in the field, where the venue is. I've still got to go out there and compete against the golf course and compete against myself," said Hossler, 17, who will enter his senior year at Santa Margarita High School in California this fall and has committed to Texas. "Obviously, it's tough to say this, but it doesn't really matter where you're playing. You've got to go out and do the same thing.

"You've got to beat the golf course."

Hossler was doing just that two weeks ago in the U.S. Open, when he took the outright lead during the second round at The Olympic Club. Just like that, he was trending on Twitter and his mother, who was walking along outside the ropes, was trending on Google. Hossler, who said he has been recognized at places such as Macy's and Jack in the Box since the Open, finished in a tie for 29th.

"There's no substitute for competition or experience or anything like that," Hossler, who missed the cut in the 2011 U.S. Open at Congressional, said of playing against the best in the world. "To know I'm able to be out there at least and to compete, that's a huge confidence booster for me. Obviously I know I'm not quite to their level yet, but I feel like I can potentially be there in the future if I keep working hard. And it's good to see a little precursor of what I need to have in my array of shots."

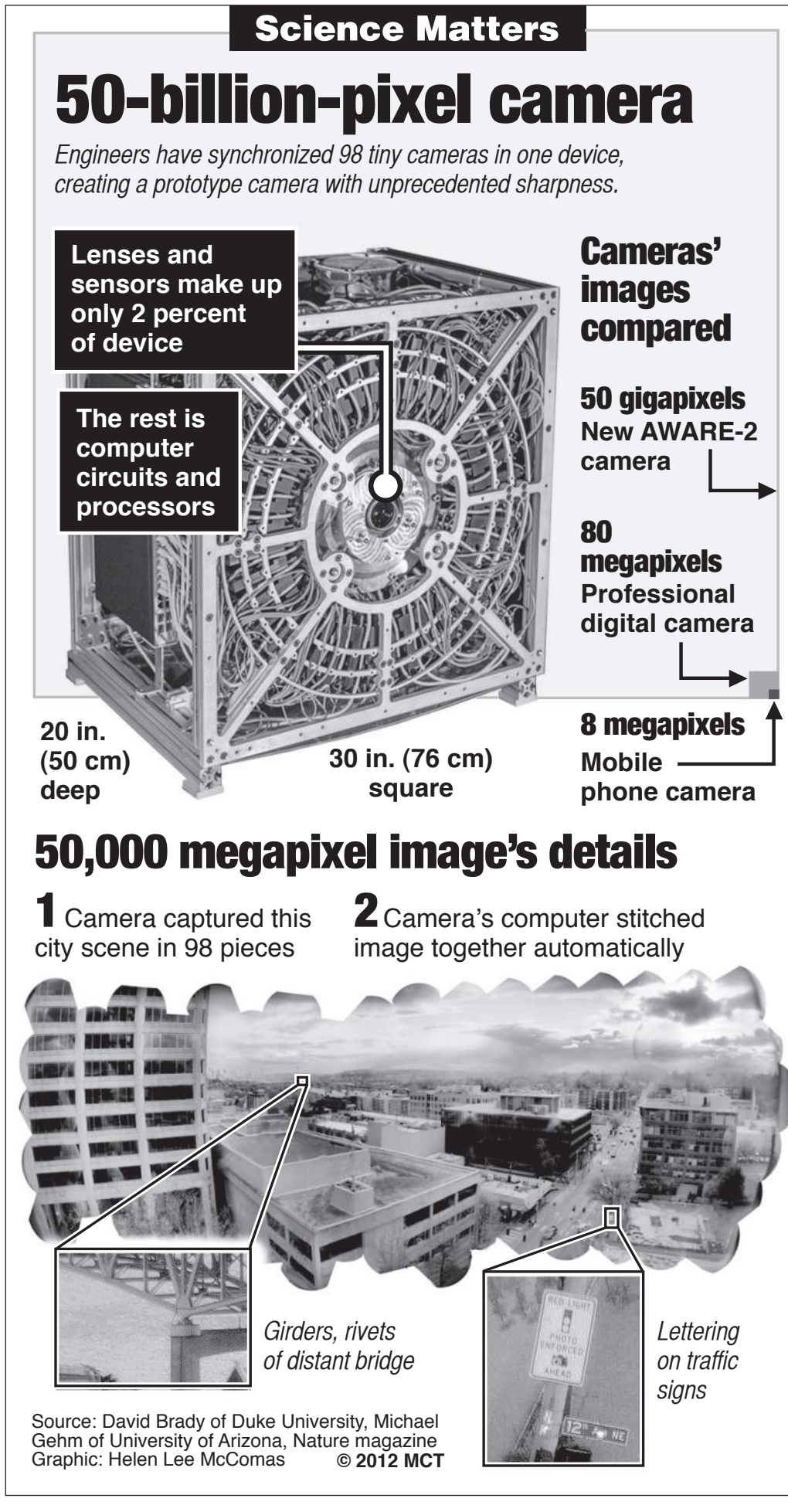
Spieth, who turns 19 next month, is the only player other than Woods to win the U.S. Junior Amateur more than once. He entered golf's radar when, on a sponsor's exemption, he made the cut in the 2010 HP Byron Nelson Championship, was tied for seventh after three rounds and finished in a tie for 16th. A year later, he tied for 32nd. As a freshman at Texas, he won three events and led the team in scoring as it won the NCAA Division I championship. Two weeks ago in the Open, on the strength of a 70-69 weekend, he passed Hossler and earned low amateur honors with a tie for 21st.

"You're playing the toughest golf courses, and that always makes you a better player," said Spieth, who will play in the Tour's John Deere Classic next month. "But what I really get out of this is that you're always playing guys that are better than you, and you have to work hard just to play well. And you have to play well to get into contention. Out here there is no messing around.

"There is always another step to get better. I know it takes a lot to compete with these guys on a weekly basis, so it's pretty easy to keep a level head."

Hossler and Spieth are in no rush to start competing against the pros on a regular basis, as each said the money, and the game, isn't going anywhere. For now, there is work to do on the practice range and in the classroom—occasionally scaring the pros in the process.

"I respect the games of every player out here," Hossler said. "They're obviously the best players in the world. But I feel like obviously I'm going to have to play my best golf, there's no doubt about it. But I think I can go out there, and if I prepare well, which I feel like I have, gotten some rest, if I go out there and play my game, I think I can get myself into contention."


Science Matters
50-billion-pixel camera
Engineers have synchronized 98 tiny cameras in one device, creating a prototype camera with unprecedented sharpness.
Lenses and sensors make up only 2 percent of device
The rest is computer circuits and processors
20 in. (50 cm) deep
30 in. (76 cm) square
Cameras' images compared
50 gigapixels
New AWARE-2 camera
80 megapixels
Professional digital camera
8 megapixels
Mobile phone camera
50,000 megapixel image's details
1 Camera captured this city scene in 98 pieces
2 Camera's computer stitched image together automatically
Girders, rivets of distant bridge
Lettering on traffic signs
Source: David Brady of Duke University, Michael Gehm of University of Arizona, Nature magazine
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas
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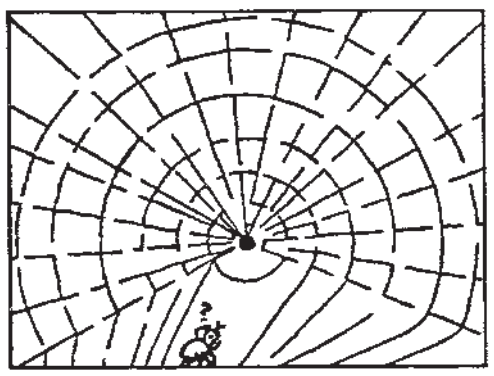
Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman



WEBWARD HO! Follow that bug — see if you can make your way through openings in this spider web to black dot at center.

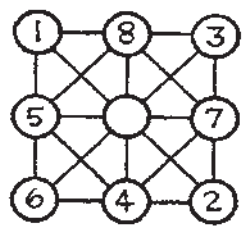
PITCH IN! Find Ed, Dan, Stan, Flo, Ron, Al and Sue among consecutive letters of the following sentence: We need both concern for, and an understanding of, lots of environmental issues. Time limit: two minutes.

PULL SWITCH! Observe that numbers shown (1-8) total 12 on each of the four sides at right. It is possible to move these numbers one at a time, using empty circle to start, and in nine moves attain a total of 15 per side.

How's it done?

P.S.: Use of numbered disks will facilitate moves.

Or, perhaps you'd prefer to simply work out a 15-per side arrangement using numbers 1-8 without the moves.



Nine-move switch: 5-1-8-5-4-2-7-5-4. Digits 8-4-3 will then appear across top; 1-blank-5 across center; 6-2-7 at bottom. Other answers may be possible.

HIDE AND SEEK WILD LIFE

FIND a creature — animal, bird, insect, etc. — listed below to complete the name of each of the following flowers and plants (Ex.: No. 1 is a lion):

1. Dande _____
2. ____ lily.
3. ____ glove.
4. ____ balm.
5. ____ grass.
6. ____ bane.
7. ____ flax.
8. ____ spur.
9. ____ tail.
10. ____ berry.
11. ____ root.
12. ____cabbage.

Creatures: Cat, snake, lark, fox, goose, skunk, bee, tiger, flea, crab, lion, toad.

1. Lion. 2. Tiger. 3. Fox. 4. Bee. 5. Crab. 6. Flea. 7. Toad. 8. Lark. 9. Cat. 10. Goose. 11. Snake. 12. Skunk.

Strange BUT TRUE

by Samantha Weaver

■ It was beloved cowboy humorist Will Rogers who made the following sage observation: "Nobody wants to be called common people, especially common people."

■ Do you think you could eat 80 pounds of chicken? If you're like the average American, that's how much you will consume this year.

■ You've probably heard or even used the term "fly off the handle" to describe someone losing their temper. You probably don't realize, though, that the handle referred to was originally an axe handle. Sometimes the blade of such a tool would be improperly fastened to the handle, and would therefore be sent flying when the axe was being used.

■ The composer who wrote the famous song "Que Sera, Sera" also wrote the theme song to the 1960s TV show "Mr. Ed."

■ Those who study such things say that England's Elizabeth I owned 3,000 dresses.

■ If you make a trip to Venice to see the famous canals, keep an eye out for any gondola not painted black. If you see one, you can be sure that it belongs to a high official in the government; they are the only ones permitted by law to have gondolas in any other color.

■ The world's single largest consumer of fossil fuels is the United States military.

■ You might be surprised to learn that, according to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, half of all American children suffer at least one dog bite before the age of 12. The ASPCA also says that most of those bites aren't from strange animals; rather, it's the family pet or a friend or neighbor's dog that does the biting.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "Where we have strong emotions, we're liable to fool ourselves."—Carl Sagan

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MAGIC MAZE ● SMALLEST U.S. CAPITAL CITIES

E F D B Y X D O V E R V T R E
P O M K I G E D T E B Y Z X N
A T S U G U A R I W U T T R N
Q A N N A P O L I S O I N L E
J I J E F F E R S O N C I T Y
G F N D K P A C A Y X N W V E
T U S N T N D R O C N O C R H
J P A N E O K C R A M S I B C
N R O L Y M P I A E R R E I P
F M E G R U B S I R R A H L K
J H N O T S E L R A H C I G F

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Annapolis	Charleston	Frankfort	Juneau
Augusta	Cheyenne	Harrisburg	Montpelier
Bismarck	Concord	Helena	Olympia
Carson City	Dover	Jefferson City	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	÷		+		13
+		+		÷	
	÷		+		7
÷		+		+	
	+		−		10
2		10		5	

1 3 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

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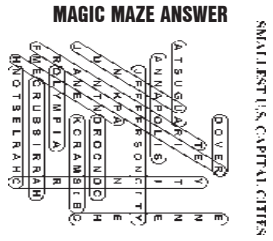
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

13	8	+	1	÷	5
+	÷		+		+
7	4	+	3	÷	9
	+		+		÷
10	3	−	6	+	7
	÷		+		2

Senior pets need extra checkups

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: How often should my 12-year-old mutt, "Akira," see the veterinarian? He's very healthy for an older dog, but my girlfriend says he needs to have more than a once-a-year physical. Is that true?—Matt C., Longwood, Fla.

DEAR MATT: Twice a year is a good guideline for senior pets to visit their veterinarian, if they're otherwise healthy. That's because older dogs and cats can develop conditions common to pets of advanced age quickly—conditions that sometimes go unnoticed but should be treated sooner rather than later so the pet's quality of life doesn't diminish.

It's normal for a pet to slow down as it ages. But the reduced activity that an owner sees as normal can mask developing conditions like arthritis, thyroid imbalance, heart disease or cancer. A dog or cat's slowing pace also can lead to obesity, meaning owners need to regulate and monitor their diets closely so that senior pets get proper nutrition while avoiding excess calories.

Many vets will recommend a twice-yearly exam once a pet reaches an age considered senior. (This varies a bit for dogs. Larger dogs are often considered senior pets after age 8 or 9; smaller dogs might be 10 or older.) It's not a moneymaking move—it's a good recommendation. The exam should include a full physical, along with testing for developing conditions like diabetes or other illnesses that, untreated, can drastically shorten a pet's life.

Additionally, you should keep Akira's vaccinations up to date and read up on pet care for senior dogs. There are many things owners can do to improve their pet's quality of life beyond extra medications: special diets, specific exercises and modified play are among the steps owners can take.

■ ■ ■

Send your questions or comments to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. For more pet care-related advice and information, visit www.pawscorner.com.

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Craft a denim purse with jean pockets

Recycle an old or outgrown pair of jeans and make a trendy pocket purse with a shoulder strap that your preteen daughter can use this summer. It's perfect for holding a comb, Chapstick and change when she's out and about with friends.

If she's having a sleepover party, pull the supplies together and let the girls create and design their own purse to keep. It's a super-simple make-and-take project everyone will remember.

To get started, cut out the back pocket from a pair of old jeans (the heavier the denim fabric, the better), cutting along the outside of the pocket. Cut very close to the pocket's top stitching without cutting the pocket. Don't limit yourself to blue jeans. For unusual purses, we used pockets from black, red and gold jeans we picked up for under a dollar at summer garage sales.

For a shoulder strap, determine the length of cording or ribbon that suits the child's height, and handstitch the ends to the top side edges of the pocket opening. Old woven sashes or cotton belts (with buckles cut off) also work well.

Scout around the house for interesting items to decorate the pocket purse. Attach the items with fabric glue, or assist young children with a glue gun.

Here are some ideas for different styles:

Jazzy: Glue a fringe trim to the side and bottom edges. Glue big rhinestones to the front of the purse for an eye-catching accent.

Romantic: Glue a square of cotton lace to the front. Add items from old costume jewelry, such as pearls, beads, silk flowers and a tiny brooch.

Artsy: Use fabric paints to paint a picture or abstract design. Embellish with glued-on buttons, coins or charms.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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Good Housekeeping

When selling a house, paint should be spiffy

By AL HEAVENS
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

This advice is actually designed for people who are listing their houses for sale:

■ A recently applied, high-quality acrylic latex paint can last 10 years or more and "translates into many years of freedom from maintenance for prospective buyers."

■ Remember, buyers today have a lot of houses from which to choose and the less work they have to do, the better chance you have to sell your house quickly and for the right price.

Want more? Here goes:

■ When selecting an exterior coat, be conservative. White and neutral colors are often the safest choices, since they will appeal to the greatest number of prospective buyers.

■ When painting for a potential sale, "it is often not the time to have the most striking paint scheme in the neighborhood."

■ Include quality surface preparation in the work. Properly preparing the surface for painting will produce the best appearance and add to the life expectancy of the paint job.

■ Finally, finish painting before putting the home on the market. A completed and attractive paint job will assist with that critical first impression as potential buyers consider and view your home.

More advice at http://www.paintquality.com.

■■■

Speaking of paint, we continue our discussion of painting the basement or garage floor with a question from Reading, Pa., reader Sandy Duffy:

"Would concrete stain be a better choice than paint? I used a concrete stain on my outside patio which is exposed to the elements and has held up quite well for 10 years now."

From what I am told, that would be an excellent choice, but I would recommend strongly that you do your research on surface preparation and determine how wet that floor can get, because any moisture might compromise performance over the long run.

For advice on the kind of paint, I would recommend talking to the folks at your neighborhood paint retailer. They should know your area and all of its requirements, and should be able to guide your decision.

The garage floor stain should offer protection from oil and paint and other spills, however.

■■■

Now you're cooking with gas. Some advice for outdoor grilling season, from the testing and certification group CSA International:

■ **Make a clean start.** Before firing up the barbecue for the first time, carefully inspect burners and burner tubes for blockages due to dirt, grease, insects, or rust buildup. Clean or replace any blocked parts or have a certified technician make repairs.

■ **Blowing bubbles.** Check for cracked, brittle or leaking hoses. To check for leaks, apply a 50/50 solution of soap and water to hoses and fittings and turn on the main gas or propane valve while leaving burners off. Any leaks will show up as bubbles. Replace any damaged hoses or fittings.

■ **Old gas? Take a pass.** Propane cylinders must be inspected and requalified a minimum of every 12 years in the United States. A date stamp on the cylinder indicates when it was last qualified. Do not use a rusty or damaged cylinder. If in doubt, have your tank replaced.

■ **Breathing fire.** Keep grills and barbecues away from combustible materials such as fences, trees, buildings, awnings, and carports. Never use a barbecue in a garage.

■■■

Bathroom remodeling. One tip from Consumer Reports:

■ Don't cut corners on key materials. Cheaping out on things that get the most use is a common mistake people make when remodeling.

■ Decide carefully when choosing items such as faucets, particularly their finish and tiles. Save on items like light fixtures.

■ Consumer Reports recommends opting for a basic finish on faucets and fixtures that can save you hundreds of dollars without compromising quality.

A recently applied, high-quality acrylic latex paint can last 10 years or more.

Cluttered home? Here's how to fix it!

By JON LANSNER
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Jennifer Ford Berry is a organizational expert and author of the *Organize Now* series of self-help books. We figured we'd help our many readers who pledged to get organized in 2012 and ask Jennifer for some home de-cluttering advice!

Us: Organizing the house seems so overwhelming. What are a few hints that can get a person going in the right direction?

Jennifer: Start with the area of your home that causes you the most stress and get it organized. Take it one step at a time until it is 100 percent completed. You will feel a sense of accomplishment and an increase in energy that will help motivate to tackle area No. 2.

Us: Some people have kitchens that look right out of the home-design magazines. Others can't find a thing. Who is normal? What should a clutter fighter attack first in this room?

Jennifer: More people than not are overwhelmed by clutter in their life. Start with the countertops. This is the most visible space in your kitchen and the most important because it is the area you need to work on. Put away all appliances that you use less than 1 time per week. Clear the paper and make a home for it. Don't go crazy on the decor, one maybe two things is plenty on a kitchen countertop.

Us: Many home offices are more a collection of piles. Whatever became of the paper-free society? How can one best decide what records to keep, which ones to toss—and what does one need to buy or do to keep my paper reasonably orderly?

Jennifer: Paper-free society … ha! That is a long ways away. Paper is everyone's worst nightmare because it keeps coming, univited, each and every day. For example, if I want more clothes to come into my home I have to physically go out and buy them. But paper just keeps on coming no matter what we do. Rule of thumb—80 percent of the paper we keep we NEVER look at again. So ask yourself "is there at least an 80 percent chance I will need this again?" If you can get a digital copy somewhere—toss it! Good, old-fashion filing system is the best way to keep track of paper. Clearly labeled in a straight tab format for hard copies; and labeled folders on your computer.

Us: Why do most three-car garages hold maybe one car—and family's worth of junk? Bet there's some mental approach that needs to be changed about this open space. How do we get the cars back in the garage and the storage space better used?

Jennifer: Many times people throw the items they are not sure what to do with, or don't have a home for, in the garage. This is much easier than (1) making the decision on whether or not to part with the item and (2) deciding on a home for the item. Get tougher on decision-making and you may have less in your garage. Also look up in the garage, that is where you can find the storage space you need to enable you to clear the floor for the vehicles.

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

Jambalaya Sausage Kebabs

This bayou blast offers up smoky, savory flavor—stacked with kielbasa, veggies and Cajun-spiced rice. Precooked sausage helps you get the meal on the table in about 30 minutes.

8 (12-inch) wooden skewers or 4 long metal skewers
2 small (about 6 ounces each) zucchini, cut diagonally into 3/4-inch-thick slices
1 red pepper, cut into 1 1/4-inch pieces
1/2 small Vidalia onion, cut into 4 wedges, keeping wedges intact
1 tablespoon olive oil
1 teaspoon olive oil
2 teaspoons Cajun seasoning
1 package (16 ounces) light kielbasa or other fully cooked smoked sausage, cut diagonally into 1-inch chunks
1 large stalk celery, chopped
1 package (8.8 ounces) white rice, fully cooked
1 medium tomato, chopped
2 tablespoons water

1. Prepare outdoor grill for covered direct grilling over medium heat. Meanwhile, soak wooden skewers in water 15 minutes.

2. In large bowl, toss zucchini, pepper, onion, 1 tablespoon oil, and 1 teaspoon Cajun seasoning. Alternately thread vegetables and kielbasa onto skewers.

3. Place skewers on hot grill rack. Cover grill and cook 10 to 12 minutes or until kielbasa browns and vegetables are tender-crisp, turning skewers occasionally. Remove skewers to platter; keep warm.

4. In nonstick 10-inch skillet, heat remaining 1 teaspoon oil over medium heat. Add celery and remaining 1 teaspoon Cajun seasoning. Cook, covered, 5 minutes or until celery softens, stirring occasionally. Stir in rice, tomato and water. Cover and cook 3 minutes or until rice is hot. Serve rice with kebabs.

For thousands of triple-tested recipes, visit our website at www.goodhousekeeping.com/recipefinder/.

THIS IS A HAMMER

Closet door sticks, scrapes the floor

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: I've got a closet door that scrapes the floor when I swing it open or shut, and it sticks when it's closed. Is there an easy way to fix this, or is something seriously wrong?—Harriet C., Denver

A: Chances are the door just needs a bit of adjustment. Over time, as houses settle and temperature or humidity changes warp the wood of a door or its frame, the door doesn't open or shut just right. Grab a helper and a prybar or hammer, and prepare to fix this door.

First, check the overall condition of the door, its frame and the surrounding hardware (the doorknob and latch, hinges and the hinge plates where they're screwed into the door frame). Make sure all of the hardware is screwed in properly and not loose or tearing away from the frame. Make sure there is no visible damage or warping of the door or frame—usually there isn't, unless the door suffered a serious calamity such as flood damage.

If the overall condition checks out as good, adjusting the hinges or shimming the door so it swings freely again is the likely course of action.

Shimming is a way of very slightly changing the angle at which a door is hung. You do this by adding a shim behind a door's hinge to lift it slightly—and then adjusting that angle up or down. Shim kits also are available at home-improvement stores.

Since the door's angle has shifted slightly downward, first try adjusting the top hinge on the door-frame side by simply screwing all the hinge screws in a half-turn or so. This alone may lift the door just enough to even it out.

If that doesn't work, you can either unscrew the top hinge and carefully shave away a paper-thin amount of the wooden frame in order to set the hinge slight back. Or, if you don't want to damage the frame, shim the lower hinge in order to lift the door upward.

Unscrew the frame side of the bottom hinge, as your helper holds the door steady. Insert a very thin shim piece (the kits are usually cut to size, or you can use a wafer-thin piece of plywood or even a playing card to shim, and trim yourself) and place the hinge over the shim, using a power drill to drive the hinge screws through the shim into their usual place.

Shimming or adjusting the angle can take time and a few attempts. Be patient, and you'll soon have your door swinging freely.

HOME TIP: For doors that slightly scrape the floor as they open, place a rough piece of sandpaper underneath the sticky area and open and close the door several times—this might smooth out the bottom of the door just enough to end the scraping.

Send your questions or tips to ask@thisisahammer.com, or write This Is a Hammer, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

Life & Style

Rush to report US health ruling trips up CNN, Fox

By DAVID BAUDER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—President Barack Obama worried and Republicans celebrated when they first heard the news. But not so fast: In the split-second rush to report the Supreme Court's health care decision Thursday, CNN and Fox News Channel got it wrong.

It was an excruciating test for reporters who were handed a 59-page decision choked with legalese and asked to report its meaning almost instantly.

Bloomberg News and The Associated Press were the first reporting the news—correctly, at 10:07 a.m. EST—that the court upheld most of Obama's health care overhaul and a mandate that nearly every American have health insurance. They were followed by Reuters and the SCOTUSblog.

The New York Times made a point of tweeting that reporters and editors were analyzing the decision and would write when they were comfortable that the nuances were correct. The paper didn't tweet the news until 10:20 a.m.

CNN apologized for its error, saying it "regrets that it didn't wait to report out the full and complete opinion" that upheld the mandate requiring virtually all Americans to have health insurance. Fox, however, insisted it was right. "Fox reported the facts, as they came in," said network executive Michael Clemente.

The inaccurate reports were the first ones seen by Obama, who was watching four television monitors outside the Oval Office. White House Counsel Katherine Ruemmler came in moments later with the true story.

It was particularly embarrassing for CNN, which has suffered through one of its worst ratings quarters in several years, primarily due to a paucity of big news. The network eagerly awaited the court's decision, scheduled for 10 a.m., running a "countdown clock" on its screen for hours.

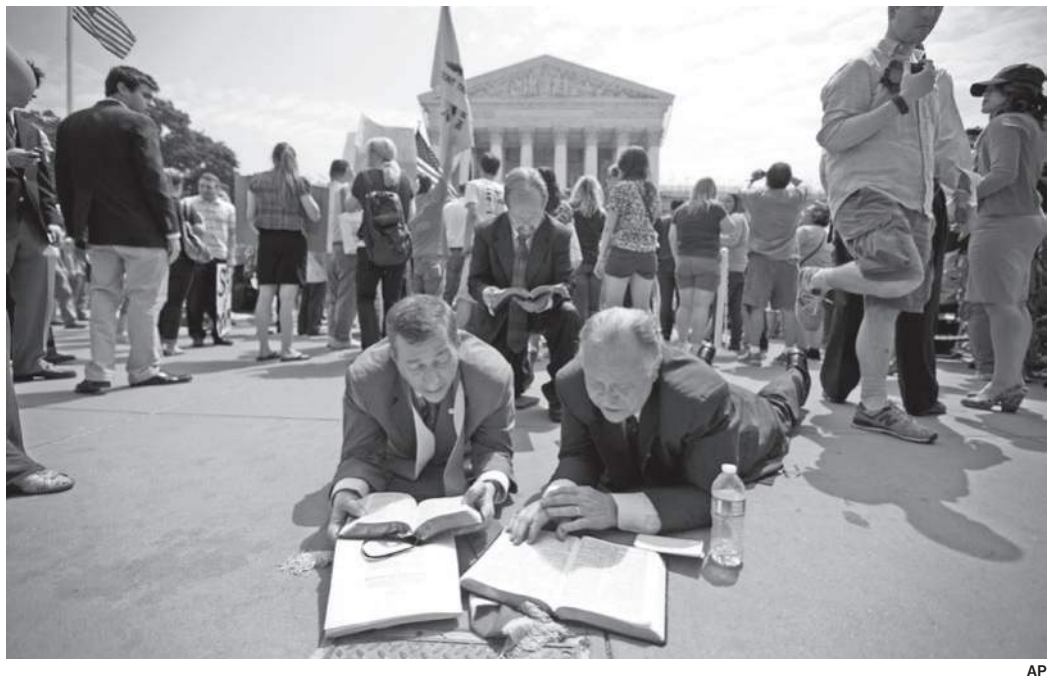
Anchor Wolf Blitzer and reporter Kate Bolduan reported at 10:08 a.m. that the health care law had been struck down, based on a reading of Chief Justice John Roberts' decision that the mandate was not a valid exercise of congressional power under the commerce clause of the Constitution. The screen read: "Supreme Ct. Kills Individual Mandate." The news was tweeted and emailed to the network's followers.

"The court striking down that mandate is a dramatic blow to the president," said CNN reporter John King.

By 10:13 a.m., some doubt had seeped in, and the onscreen headline read: "Supreme Court Rules on Obama Law."

"Let's take a deep breath and see what the justices actually decided," Blitzer said. "It could be more complicated than we originally thought."

Two minutes later, CNN reported the correct decision—the court had upheld the individual mandate, basing it not on the commerce clause but on Congress' power of taxation. CNN then reported that the entire law had been upheld, with King calling it "a huge, huge victory for President Obama."



AP

Demonstrators pray outside the Supreme Court in Washington, Thursday, June 28, 2012, after the court's ruling on health care.

On Fox, Bill Hemmer touted the "breaking news" that the individual mandate had been declared unconstitutional. A Twitter account run by Fox anchor Bret Baier's show tweeted the same news. Within two minutes, however, anchor Megyn Kelly was citing SCOTUSblog's report and ordered producers to change an onscreen headline that read: "Supreme Court Finds Health Care Individual Mandate Unconstitutional."

"We're trying to do the best we can," Hemmer said.

The initial report on Baier's Fox show Twitter feed was deleted, followed by the tweet: "Getting word that the individual mandate will survive as a tax—we are trying to work this out for you—more to come."

Clemente, Fox executive vice president of news and editorial, was unapologetic. "We gave our viewers the news as it happened," he said. He said Hemmer reported that the mandate was not constitutional under the commerce clause, although the network's reporting gave the impression that the mandate had been fully struck down.

Obama's first news about the decision came from television monitors outside the Oval Office, where the cable channels were reporting that the mandate had been struck down, according to administration officials. Within moments, Ruemmler hurried toward the White House and flashed the president two thumbs up. She explained her reading, and Obama hugged her as Chief of Staff Jack Lew looked on.

Several members of Congress also tweeted incorrect information about the ruling. Republican Rep. Darrell Issa of California called it a "big win for liberty and the Constitution." Florida Republican Rep. Tom Rooney tweeted that it was "great news for the American people, victory for constitution." The politicians later removed the tweets from their Twitter feeds.

The Huffington Post's politics Twitter feed first made the wrong call and corrected itself, saying "we jumped the gun" following the CNN and Fox News reports.

Caution was discussed ahead of time during several planning meetings at The New York Times, said Jim Roberts, assistant managing editor. The paper was willing to take a few extra minutes to make sure it had exactly the right interpretation, he said.

"It's almost stupidly obvious to say, `We want to be right,' but we want to be right," he said.

The Associated Press—which delivered the news as a flash, its highest-priority designation—anticipated a complex decision, and its Washington staff prepared for weeks for the various rulings that might come down, said Kathleen Carroll, the news service's senior vice president and executive editor.

"Our goal, as always: Get the facts and get them out quickly," Carroll said in a memo to the staff. "Once again, the enduring lesson prevails: Expertise and preparation are what make us fast and accurate."

ABC, CBS and NBC all interrupted programming for special reports and all generally got it right. The scene was reminiscent of the Supreme Court's decision that decided the 2000 presidential election between George W. Bush and Al Gore, with reporters standing onscreen, frantically leafing through pages as they tried to read and interpret at the same time.

AP

This film image released by Warner Bros. shows, from left, Adam Rodriguez, Kevin Nash, Channing Tatum, and Matt Bomer in a scene from "Magic Mike."

Stripping taught 'Magic Mike' cast about women

By SANDY COHEN
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The waxing, the thongs, the perils of topless typecasting: Playing strippers taught the men of "Magic Mike" something about women.

Matthew McConaughey, Channing Tatum, Alex Pettyfer, Joe Manganiello and Matt Bomer play firemen, cops and other exaggerated versions of hyper-masculine characters in the Steven Soderbergh film, and they say preparing for their parts and performing nearly nude for the dozens of female extras who populated the fake Club Xquisite gave them insight into women's grooming, undergarments and approach to carnal fantasy.

"Magic Mike" delves into the male exotic-dancing world in Tampa, Fla., where Mike (Tatum) is a star performer who sees potential in a young newbie (Pettyfer) he calls The Kid. As The Kid becomes enamored of his new lifestyle and the access to drugs, money and women it provides, Mike thinks about escaping the debaucherous environs and making good on his entrepreneurial dreams outside the club. Meanwhile, there are several silly, sexy, scantily clad dance routines that showcase the actors', um, assets.

Soderbergh says the film is "just F for fun," but he and his cast found making it illuminating. For one, they discovered that "the role of fantasy for men and women is different," the director said.

"If men have a fantasy, they spend more time thinking about how to make it happen than women do," he said. "Women come to the (strip) club, they do their two-hour thing and then they drop it. Men are not like that. There's something behind it for them that they have to keep thinking about."

Women go with their friends, where men often go alone. Men dream of having some kind of relationship with the stripper, Soderbergh said, "but I don't think any of (the women at clubs) look at these guys and go, 'I'll throw it all away for this person.'"

Soderbergh was drawn to the male-strippers story because it explored a world he hadn't seen before, and its inherent music and dancing made it "a good movie idea." Tatum, who really was a stripper when he was 18 and inspired the film's concept, said he and screenwriter Reid Carolin wanted to put a cinematic spin on the weird world he worked in and point an objectifying lens at men, for once.

"In movies, generally if there's a female role in it, generally, a large part of the time, her power comes from her sexuality, and that has done something weird in society where women think their power is their sex, that their sexuality that is empowering them to be strong women, and that a complete falsity," Tatum said.

"For this (film), the women are the ones that are smart and have careers and are making good decisions for themselves, and the guys are the ones that are objectified and deriving power from sexuality," Carolin said. "That makes them behave very flamboyantly and confidently, but they don't have any real fulfillment out of that, and there's this struggle to feel like they're worth something outside of that."

Still, Tatum, 32, acknowledges that showing flesh for his roles in "Magic Mike" and other movies "probably helped my career more than hurt my career at this point."

Dealing with the waxing the part required, however, was a real challenge.

"I don't know what movie could make me do that again," Tatum said.

"One time is enough for me," echoed McConaughey.

Pettyfer didn't have to wax, but he did have to shave, and does so on screen with a pink razor.

"Oh my god, I don't know how women shave," he said, adding that his skin was irritated for weeks. He also had some trouble with his wardrobe.

"I don't know how you wear a thong," the 22-year-old Brit said. "It's one of the most uncomfortable things in the world."

McConaughey said performing in the revealing garment took hours of acclimation.

"You first get a thong on and your posture's different," said the actor, who would walk around in his costume and make small talk to get comfortable before his scenes.

"Anything a man does in a thong is funny," Manganiello said. And though he's often topless on TV's "True Blood" and shirtless in both of his movies this summer ("Magic Mike" and "What to Expect When You're Expecting"), the 35-year-old actor doesn't fear being typecast as a half-naked hunk.

"There's no male objectification," he said. "I just don't think it exists. Men, what do we care?"

Submitting to body waxes and butt-bearing underwear, though, is another story.

DA: No charges in leak of Rihanna beating photo

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Two Los Angeles police officers won't face criminal charges alleging they leaked a photo of pop star Rihanna's bruised and beaten face after she was assaulted by singer Chris Brown, the Los Angeles County district attorney's office said.

An internal report by prosecutors says that after a three-year investigation, they didn't have enough evidence to show celebrity news website TMZ paid the accused officers for the photo, and that became an obstacle in charging them.

The Associated Press report obtained a copy of the March 28 report on Thursday after its contents were first reported by the Los Angeles Times.

Officers Blanca Lopez and Rebecca Reyes may still get fired. They are slated to appear before disciplinary panels in August.

Brown, who was Rihanna's boyfriend at the time, was arrested on suspicion of beating the Grammy winner on Feb. 8, 2009, leaving her bloody and bruised.

The "Umbrella" and "Only Girl (In The World)" songstress, whose full name is Robyn Rihanna Fenty, canceled her Grammy performance that year after the incident.

AP

In this Feb. 7, 2009 file photo, Rihanna arrives at the Clive Davis pre-Grammy party in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Brown pleaded guilty to attacking Rihanna and was ordered to serve five years on supervised probation and to complete six months of community service including roadside cleanup, graffiti removal and manual labor.

Prosecutors allege the photo was leaked after a stack of photographs of Rihanna's injuries was left lying on a desk at the Wilshire police station and Reyes took a picture of the top photo with her phone.

Prosecutors say Reyes later emailed the image from her LAPD email address to her personal email address.

Reyes and Lopez were roommates at the time, and phone records showed that they made multiple phone calls to Fox Television and TMZ in February.

The photo shocked fans and prompted a national conversation about domestic violence after it spread through the media.

But despite a search of Reyes' and Lopez's bank accounts, a money trail was not discovered tying the leak to them, prosecutors said.

In order to prove the officers broke the law, prosecutors said in the report they "must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Reyes and Lopez disclosed the image of Robyn F. (Rihanna) to TMZ and obtained money in exchange for this disclosure."

The prosecutors' report noted that other LAPD personnel had access to the photos.

"As such, although both Reyes and Lopez's actions are suspicious, they are insufficient to support a criminal prosecution," the report says.

Rihanna's attorney Donald Etra said Thursday he does not know at this time whether the singer wants to pursue any further legal action.

"Apparently this was an internal decision by the district attorney. A victim's privacy should be protected," Etra said.

Maroon 5 face down 'identity issues' on new album

By RYAN PEARSON
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Adam Levine knows the game.

Seconds after sitting down for an on-camera interview and before any questions are asked, the Maroon 5 frontman playfully rattles off canned responses he's used in recent months while promoting "The Voice" and the band's fourth album.

"It is our poppiest record ever. We're really embracing the pop side. Christina (Aguilera) and I are all good. We don't fight," he says brightly. "I feel great about this record! Probably our best ever!"

He lets out a stagey, fake chuckle, and it's clear that the 33-year-old Los Angeles native both relishes the spotlight and has been around long enough to grow a smidge tired of its glare.

Thus the title of the album, "Overexposed," which finds the five-man group at its commercial peak ten years after its debut "Songs About Jane." Last year's standalone single "Moves Like Jagger," featuring the aforementioned Aguilera, stayed at No. 1 on Billboard's Hot 100 for a month. "Overexposed's" lead single "Payphone" is now in the top five.

Levine and guitarist James Valentine spoke with The Associated Press in a recording studio about Maroon 5's "identity issues," educating young fans and why Levine doesn't plan to go solo.

AP: Why "Overexposed" as an album title?

Levine: We thought we would just kind of say it before everybody else did. ... My face is on buses, which is a trip and it's weird. ... The "Jagger" tune propelled us into the stratosphere even more, combined with the show and a lot of things that are happening right now.

AP: And do the songs address that as well?

Levine: They're love songs and they're songs about dysfunction but also songs about having a good time. I used to have to be miserable to write a song. And that's kind of gone away.

Valentine: It's weird because when things are going well for him, he's just not inspired to write, because he's enjoying life and enjoying being in those moments. Then as soon as things get a little hairy, then all of (the) sudden songs come out, which is good for us.

Levine: But we also have the moments that I think are just speaking more universally. ... That kind of clarity is what's best about the record. ... It's not shrouded in too much metaphor and ambiguity and poetry. I used to think about it much more poetically but I don't anymore. I'm much more concerned with making everyone understand what I mean and what I'm feeling.

AP: Your 14-year-old fans likely don't understand what a pay phone is, though.

Levine: Payphones and Mick Jagger could be considered things that some kids don't know about. I think that actually if you did some sort of poll, you'd say: "What's a pay phone? Who is Mick Jagger?" I think you'd be shocked by how similar the responses were from that particular demographic.

Valentine: We're like history teachers!

AP: Does you feel there was a pre-"Jagger" Maroon 5 and a post-"Jagger" Maroon 5?

Valentine: Definitely. "Jagger" sort of laid down a blueprint for what we're going to do next. We were definitely due for a change, and I think we were definitely going to go in some new directions, but (with) the success of "Jagger," of course we're going to try doing some more stuff like that.

Levine: Also if "Jagger" was us dipping our toe into the water, we launched into the river on this record, which was cool because I think that our band has had some identity issues over the past few years and we've been wrestling between trying to stick to being a band in a traditional sense and that clearly wasn't really working. ... Maybe going a bit poppier or kind of like embracing the pop music side of our band on this record makes who we are much more clear.

AP: Adam, could you see yourself going solo and then coming back to the band?

Levine: No. And I know I say this and "famous last words," but being a solo artist is so painfully uncool. I always loved playing music with my friends and being in a bit of a fraternity with my best friends and playing and traveling the world. To be a solo artist, I'm just not interested. I never have been. I'd sooner start another band. And why would I want to start over as myself? I have enough ego satisfaction being on "The Voice" and having my own shtick and all that stuff.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Snoop Dogg busted in Norway with marijuana, cash

OSLO, Norway (AP)—Norwegian media are reporting that Snoop Dogg was briefly detained in Norway after entering the country with marijuana and a large amount of cash. Customs officials decline to confirm the report, saying only that an American artist entered Norway with a small amount of marijuana that was detected by a sniffer-dog. Norwegian law prevents law enforcement officials from naming suspects. A customs officer who spoke on condition of anonymity said Thursday that the artist was also carrying more cash than is legally allowed and was subsequently fined 52,000 kroner ($8,600) for the violations. Snoop Dogg was scheduled to perform Thursday at a musical festival in the southern town of Kristiansand. The rapper, whose name is Calvin Broadus, has in the past been arrested on marijuana possession.

Film academy makes hair-styling eligible for Oscar

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hollywood hairstylists are now officially eligible for the industry's most coveted hardware: the Oscar. The film academy said Thursday that the Academy Award for makeup will now be known as the makeup and hairstyling award. Other new rules for the 85th annual Academy Awards clarify technical requirements for awards in the foreign language and visual effects categories. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' Board of Governors also voted to allow additional songwriters to be considered in the original song category. Oscar rules are reviewed annually. The 85th Academy Awards will be presented February 24, 2013, at the Dolby Theatre and broadcast live around the world.

Lunch turns into lecture over co-worker's big tip

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My co-workers and I recently went out to eat and I was put in an awkward situation. One of them announced that I had left a big tip when I paid my bill. Abby, I always leave a generous tip. I was raised well below the poverty line, and my mother's tips literally determined how much we would be able to eat that day.

The co-worker who said it became upset with me and began lecturing me about how "rude" it is to leave a large tip, especially when you're with other people. She even said it "degrades" the server.

My mom may have raised me differently than most people, but I was taught that it's OK to leave a big tip as long as you don't announce it to everyone. Was what I did considered rude?

GENEROUS IN CONNECTICUT

DEAR GENEROUS: No. The person who was rude was your co-worker, for making a spectacle. She probably did it because your tip made hers appear to be stingy. Diners leave tips based upon the quality of the service they receive. If you felt your server merited it, you were right to leave a large tip.

P.S. I have never heard of a server feeling "degraded" because of a large tip. Grateful, yes. Degraded, never!

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am dating a man, "Cameron," I am crazy about. We plan to be married next year once I finish college. There is just one issue that's stressing me. Cam's apartment is gross and messy. There are dishes from various dinners scattered all over the place. I find it disgusting, and I'm worried he will be like this after we're married.

I have tried to talk to him about it, but he gets angry and says that it's HIS place. He says he'll be neater when we're married. I'm not sure I believe that.

This seems a silly thing to cause discord in a relationship, which is otherwise going well, but I AM concerned. Is there anything I can do?

GROSSED OUT IN BLOOMINGTON, IND.

DEAR GROSSED OUT: Yes, there is. You can face the fact that once you marry Cameron he is still going to be the same person he is now—sloppy, messy and defensive when you point out something that needs improvement. People don't magically change after they say "I do." If you love him enough to accept him just the way he is, and be the primary housekeeper after you're married, you may have a happy union. If not, put your foot down NOW.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Many years ago I shoplifted a $30 item from a department store. Now I'd like to clear my conscience and make amends, but how?

I want to remain anonymous, so I can't send a check. Sending cash by mail seems unwise, and even with Google I have been unable to find a corporate address for an appropriate division. Can you help?

ANONYMOUS IN THE USA

DEAR ANONYMOUS: Because you have made an honest effort and haven't been able to come up with an address to send the money, try to find out if the department store sponsors an activity for charity and donate to that. Or, alternatively, give the money to a charity of your choice, which may salve your conscience and do a good deed at the same time.

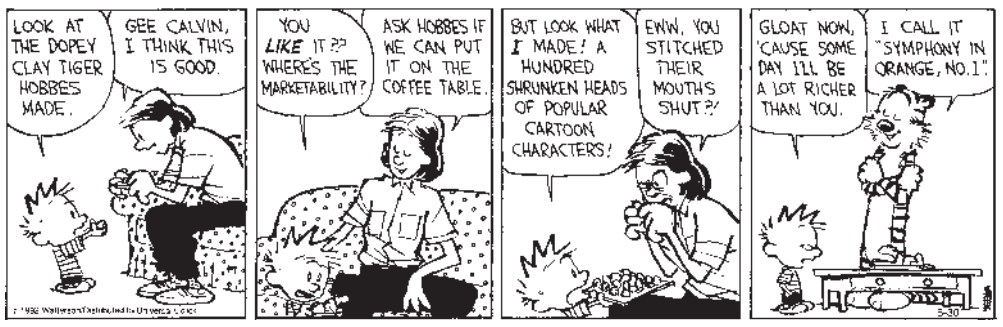
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

Hey, BATTER BATTER! Hey BATTER BATTER BATTER!
Hey BATTER BATTER BATTER

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

FIND AT LEAST 6 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS.

DIFFERENCES: 1. Bird cords are missing. 2. Buttons are missing. 3. Bedpost is missing. 4. Hand is moved. 5. Pajamas are different. 6. Sheet fold is different.

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Wishing Well®

4	2	3	4	2	8	7	5	3	5	8	7	2
M	H	S	A	A	H	B	L	M	E	I	U	V
5	3	7	3	8	2	5	4	3	6	7	6	2
T	O	S	O	G	E	T	K	T	A	I	B	F
3	5	6	5	2	3	6	7	4	2	5	8	3
H	E	U	R	U	E	N	N	E	N	A	H	R
2	8	5	7	2	6	5	4	6	2	8	6	5
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3	5	6	2	3	5	8	6	5	6	8	4	8
G	V	T	A	O	E	V	W	S	E	A	O	L
7	3	2	3	7	3	8	4	7	8	6	7	4
S	I	Y	N	S	G	U	L	I	E	A	N	D
6	7	4	7	4	7	4	7	6	7	6	8	4
L	S	M	I	O	G	V	H	T	T	H	S	E

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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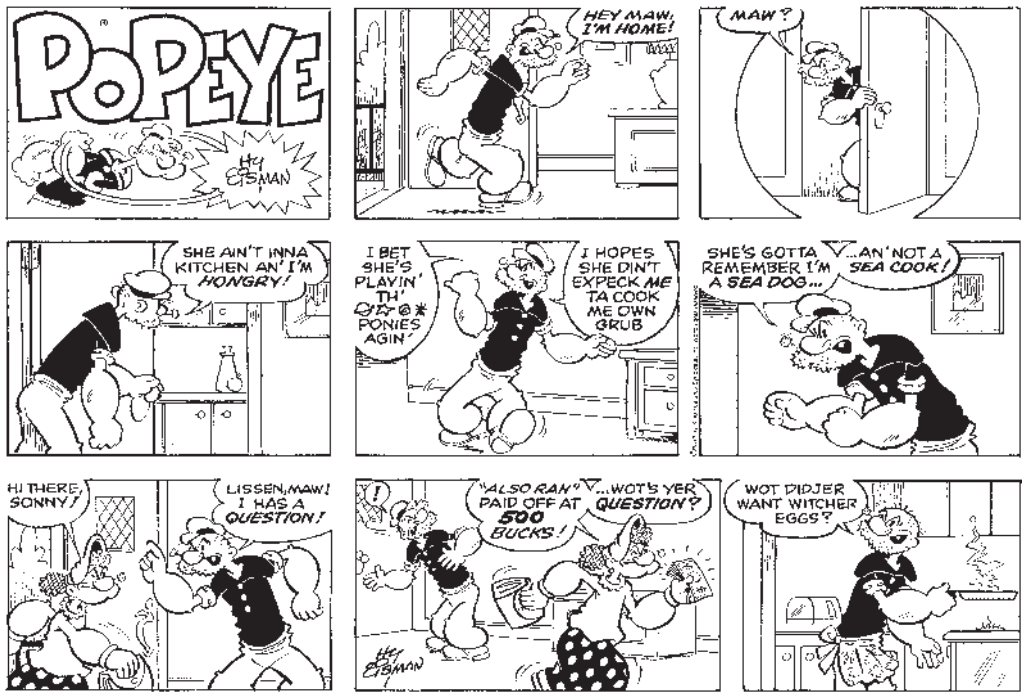
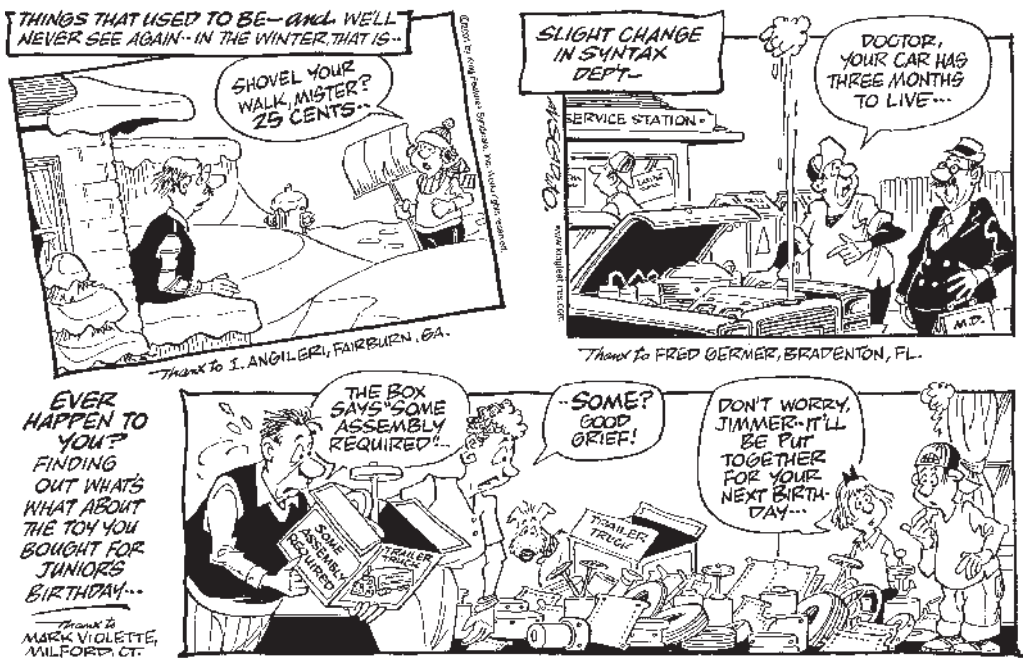
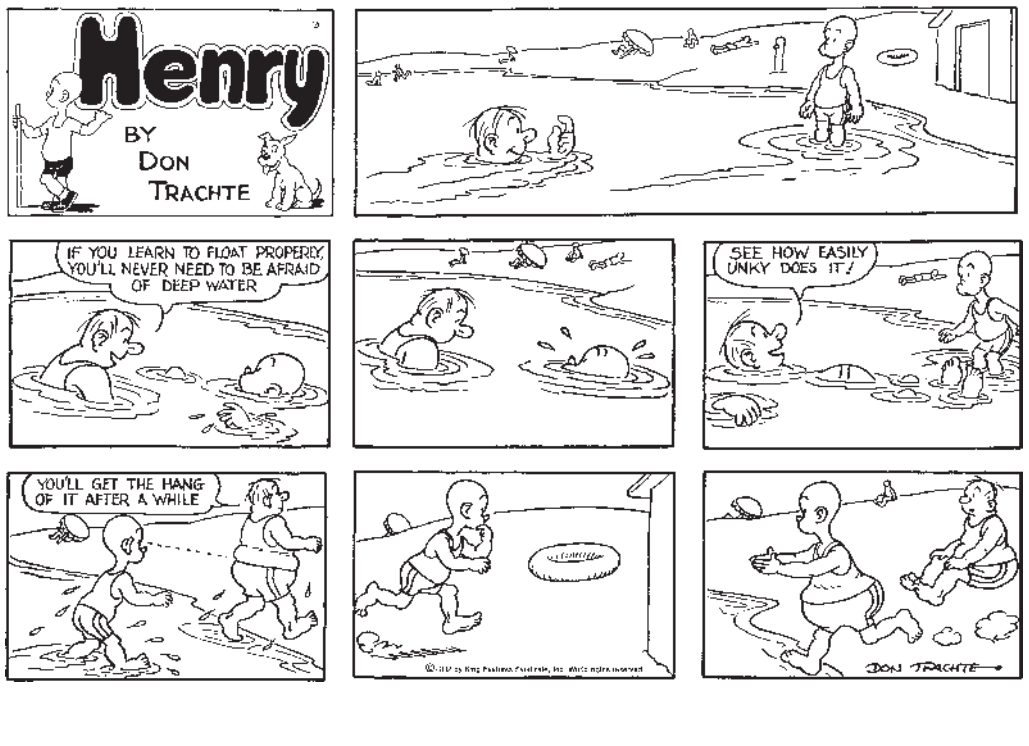

POPEYE
HEY EISMAN
HEY MAW, I'M HOME!
MAW?
SHE AIN'T INNA KITCHEN AN' I'M HONGRY!
I BET SHE'S PLAYIN' TH' PONIES AGIN'
I HOPES SHE DIN'T EXPECK ME TA COOK ME OWN GRUB
SHE'S GOTTA REMEMBER I'M A SEA DOG...
...AN' NOT A SEA COOK!
HI THERE, SONNY!
LISSEN, MAW! I HAS A QUESTION!
"ALSO RAN" PAID OFF AT 500 BUCKS!
...WOT'S YER QUESTION?
WOT DIDJER WANT WITCHER EGGS?

They'll Do It Every Time

by Al Scaduto


THINGS THAT USED TO BE—and WE'LL NEVER SEE AGAIN—IN THE WINTER, THAT IS...
SHOVEL YOUR WALK, MISTER? 25 CENTS...
Thanx to I. ANGILERI, FAIRBURN, GA.
SLIGHT CHANGE IN SYNTAX DEPT.
SERVICE STATION
DOCTOR, YOUR CAR HAS THREE MONTHS TO LIVE...
Thanx to FRED GERMER, BRADENTON, FL.
EVER HAPPEN TO YOU? FINDING OUT WHAT'S WHAT ABOUT THE TOY YOU BOUGHT FOR JUNIORS BIRTHDAY...
Thanx to MARK VIOLETTE, MILFORD, CT.
THE BOX SAYS "SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED"...
SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED KIT
TRAILER TRUCK
...SOME? GOOD GRIEF!
DON'T WORRY, JIMMER—IT'LL BE PUT TOGETHER FOR YOUR NEXT BIRTHDAY...


Henry
BY DON TRACHTE
IF YOU LEARN TO FLOAT PROPERLY, YOU'LL NEVER NEED TO BE AFRAID OF DEEP WATER
SEE HOW EASILY UNKY DOES IT!
YOU'LL GET THE HANG OF IT AFTER A WHILE
DON TRACHTE

Super Crossword

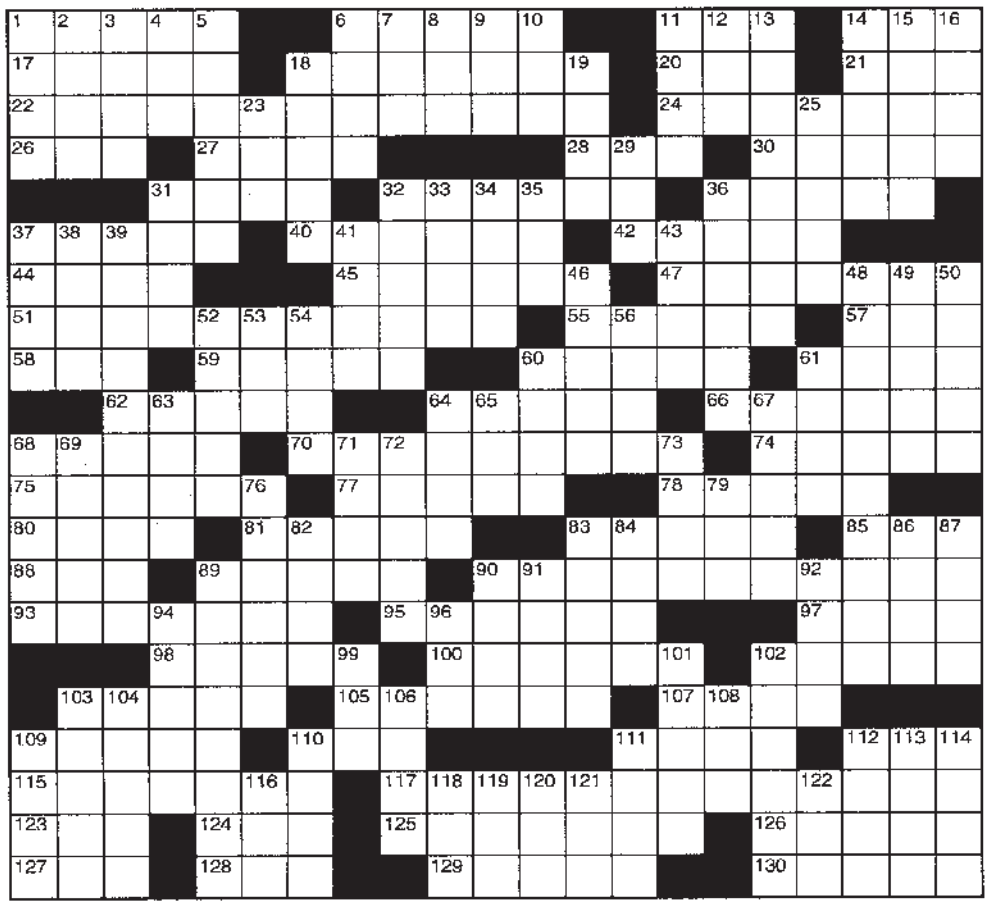
RECREATION PROCLAMATION

ACROSS

1 Ladd or Lane
6 Host a roast
11 Kipling novel
14 Social worker?
17 Conductor Dorati
18 In a perfect world
20 Slangy suffix
21 Norm
22 Start of a remark by 117 Across
24 Northwestern capital
26 "— Day Now" ('62 hit)
27 Stallion's son
28 Pom's perch
30 — laugh
31 Hound's handle
32 Torah, e.g.
36 '92 US Open champ
37 What you've gotta have
40 Acquire
42 Harden
44 — Romeo
45 Spring holiday
47 Side by side
51 Part 2 of remark
55 Lamb product
57 Vane dir.
58 — -tzu
59 Boiling
60 West African port
61 Like — of bricks
62 Austerity
64 Austen hero
66 German mark?
68 Sierra —, CA
70 All wet
74 Terra firma
75 Is useful
77 Author Potok
78 Column style
80 Claim
81 Problem for Pauline
83 Fernando or Lorenzo
85 Rocker Nugent
88 Herriot title start
89 "Odyssey" enticer
90 End of remark
93 17 Across' title
95 "The — Kid" ('84 film)
97 Orthodox image
98 Pants measurement
100 Study
102 Stick one's neck out
103 Sportscaster Musberger
105 Classical hunk?
107 Shopper's delight
109 — in (tipped off)
110 Shuffleboard stick
111 TV's "— Living"
112 Hum bug?
115 More eminent
117 Speaker of remark
123 Hosp. area
124 Erwin or Gilliam
125 She handed Theseus a line
126 Break off
127 Endorses
128 Cast a spell
129 Trepidation
130 Neighbor of Oman

DOWN

1 Comic Carvey
2 Privy to
3 Part of DA
4 Uh-uh
5 Draw forth
6 Touch up the text
7 Big boys
8 Baseball's Ripken
9 Ransom — Olds
10 Brownie, for one
11 Former surgeon general
12 Unwell
13 Andy's area
14 Tell's target
15 They get hit on their heads
16 Hors d'oeuvre holder
18 Northern hemisphere?
19 Scream
23 Start to snooze
25 Free-for-all
29 "The Greatest"
31 Munich Mrs.
32 Iowa, e.g.
33 "The Man in Black"
34 Formal ceremony
35 Like-minded
36 Forester or Outback
37 Rain hard?
38 Lohengrin's love
39 Priced right
41 Leonine Lahr
43 Highflying agcy.
46 Show one's feelings
48 Penguins' place
49 Newfoundland's nose
50 Fractional amount
52 Actor Bruce
53 To and —
54 Galley features
56 — terrier
60 Pharmacy measure
61 Jai —
63 Spring flower
64 Twofold
65 Paul's "Exodus" role
67 The Brainy Bunch?
68 Lady of the house
69 Spanish city
71 Farm measure
72 Use one's noodle
73 Tiny coin
76 Elan
79 Lummox
82 Desire deified
83 Yoga position
84 Pub orders
86 North Carolina campus
87 Unit of force
89 Plymouth leader
90 Small songbird
91 Mata —
92 Swampland
94 Like Sauternes
96 Mil. address
99 Sweater letter
101 Cosmetician Lauder
102 "Patriot Games" author
103 Thwart a blitz
104 Sewell of "A Knight's Tale"
106 — vu
108 "Do — say, not . . ."
109 Commercial award
110 Pivotal point
111 Ain't right?
112 Put on a happy face
113 In addition
114 Genesis setting
116 When the French fry
118 Significant years
119 — Tin Tin
120 "— Doll" ('64 hit)
121 Fabric amts.
122 Charge



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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. INVENTIONS: Who invented Lincoln Logs building blocks in 1916?
2. SCIENCE: What is the symbol for the chemical element tungsten?
3. MOVIES: How many von Trapp children were represented in "The Sound of Music"?
4. COMICS: Which comic strip features a character named Jon Arbuckle?
5. MEDICAL: What is the more common name for the involuntary spasms know medically as singultus?
6. U.S. STATES: A resident nicknamed a "sooner" would live in which U.S. state?
7. GEOGRAPHY: What state capital is located near the Kennebec River?
8. AD SLOGANS: What car company features advertisements that say "Drivers Wanted"?
9. GAMES: In what country did the modern game of badminton originate?
10. LITERATURE: What was the name of the caretaker's cat in the "Harry Potter" book series?

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Answers

1. John Lloyd Wright, son of architect Frank Lloyd Wright
2. W
3. Seven
4. "Garfield," the cat's owner
5. Hiccups
6. Oklahoma
7. Augusta, Maine
8. Volkswagen
9. India
10. Mrs. Norris

Saturday's Answers

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

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AMELITO Q. PAGARAO Petitioner	)	FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0060
vs.	)	
Emma Valles Pagarao Respondent	)	**SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 500731 CK Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief in the complaint.

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Hornets select Davis with No. 1 pick in NBA draft

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—Anthony Davis hugged his college teammate, hugged his coach, and climbed on stage as the No. 1 pick.

Turns out, that was just the start of Kentucky's party at the NBA draft.

The Wildcats became the first school to have the top two picks and tied a record with six players taken overall Thursday night.

After the New Orleans Hornets made the long-expected selection of Davis, Charlotte followed by taking fellow freshman Michael Kidd-Gilchrist.

Saying he was nervous even though his selection was no surprise, Davis shared an embrace with Kidd-Gilchrist, seated at a nearby table.

"My arm was shaking and my hands were sweaty. Got up and hugged Michael, my best friend, wanted to hug him for a minute," Davis said. "When my name got called, wanted to make sure he stayed close."

He did—following Davis as the next player to climb up and shake Commissioner David Stern's hand.

"It's crazy," Davis said moments after Kidd-Gilchrist's selection. "Michael is a great player. We have two down and four more to go. Hopefully, all of them will go in the first round."

They didn't, the only disappointment for the Wildcats. They settled for four in the first round and a tie with North Carolina, which won the race to four picks—all in the top 17 selections.

Harrison Barnes (No. 7, Golden State), Kendall Marshall (No. 13, Phoenix), John Henson (No. 14, Milwaukee) and Tyler Zeller (No. 17, Dallas and later traded to Cleveland) all went between Kidd-Gilchrist and the next Kentucky player, Terrence Jones at No. 18 to Houston.

Otherwise, it was the Wildcats' night.

Kentucky got its fourth first-round pick at No. 29 with Marquis Teague, another freshman, who is headed to Chicago as a possible replacement for the injured Derrick Rose. Doron Lamb went 42nd to Milwaukee, and Darius Miller was 46th to New Orleans.

Only UNLV in 1977 had six players drafted—but none in the first round.

Kentucky coach John Calipari has been criticized for recruiting "one-and-done" players, they stay the required one year and leave, but he looked thrilled hugging his two stars at the start of the night.

It's been a long time since a school made such an impact at the top of the draft.

UCLA had the Nos. 1 and 3 picks in 1969, when Milwaukee took Kareem Abdul-Jabbar—then Lew Alcindor—and Lucius Allen went third to the Seattle SuperSonics.

Davis will begin his pro career in the same city where he ended it with a national title. College basketball's player of the year as a freshman was the Most Outstanding Player of the Final Four despite shooting just 1 for 10 from the field in the championship game, grabbing 16 rebounds and blocking six shots in the victory over Kansas.

Davis slipped on a blue and purple Hornets hat above a conservative gray suit that took no attention away from basketball's most famous eyebrow. Davis even attempted to capitalize on the attention his unibrow gets, trademarking "Fear The Brow" and "Raise The Brow" earlier this month.

On the floor, Davis has the agility of a guard - and he was one only a few years ago.

The 6-foot-10 Davis averaged 14.2 points, 10.4 rebounds and 4.7 blocks, becoming a dominant defender after growing 7 inches from the start of his junior year of high school.

AP

NBA Commissioner David Stern, left, poses with the No. 1 overall draft pick Anthony Davis, of Kentucky, who was selected by the New Orleans Hornets in the NBA basketball draft, Thursday, June, 28, 2012, in Newark, N.J.

A season after the Hornets traded longtime star Chris Paul, Davis is ready to be their centerpiece, since playing for the Wildcats means he is already accustomed to plenty of attention.

"Like I said, at Kentucky we had it all the time, especially the six who played, we had the spotlight all the time," Davis said. "I think it really prepared me."

Charlotte, coming off a 7-59 season and the worst winning percentage in NBA history, had been open to moving the No. 2 pick if it found the right deal. Instead, Michael Jordan's team went with Kidd-Gilchrist, whose selection by the Bobcats was loudly cheered, a sharp contrast from the boos Stern received when he came out to announce the picks.

The new Charlotte swingman played in high school at nearby St. Patrick's in Elizabeth, N.J., and fans chanted "MKG! MKG!" as he walked off the stage. Though he and Davis talked before the draft, they didn't discuss the history the Wildcats were about to make.

"No. I was shocked at first," Kidd-Gilchrist said. "I was shocked. But no, we didn't. We didn't at all."

Florida's Bradley Beal went third to Washington, making it three SEC freshman in the first three picks. Cleveland followed with the surprisingly early pick of Syracuse sixth man Dion Waiters at No. 4.

Thomas Robinson of Kansas, who hoped to go second, fell to Sacramento at No. 5. Portland took Weber State's Damian Lillard at No. 6 with its first of two lottery picks, and Barnes was taken seventh by Golden State.

After Washington's Terrence Ross went to Toronto and Connecticut's Andre Drummond to Detroit, the Hornets rounded out the top 10 by taking Duke guard Austin Rivers with a pick they acquired in the Paul trade. Rivers hugged his father, Boston coach Doc Rivers, who came to be with his family instead of with the Celtics, who owned two later first-round picks.

Davis was the only clear-cut pick entering the draft, and there were some early surprises. Players such as Waiters and Ross went higher than expected, while Robinson dropped to the Kings.

"I really didn't know where I was going to end up at, but it is a bit of a surprise," he said, tearing up when talking about his difficult journey that included the deaths of multiple family members in college. "I didn't work out for Sacramento at all, I probably talked to them about once. But I'm here, so I'm meant to be here."

Houston took Jeremy Lamb of Connecticut at No. 12 with its first of three top-20 picks. But the Rockets, who also had the Nos. 16 and 18 picks, were hoping not to use all of them, instead packaging them for an established player after their pursuit of the Lakers' Pau Gasol fell through last year.

The Rockets tabbed Iowa State's Royce White at No. 16, and Terrence Jones two picks later.

Jared Sullinger, once considered a top-10 pick, ended up in a draft free-fall over concerns with his back but was finally taken at No. 21 by Boston. The Celtics followed with Fab Melo of Syracuse, giving them two potential replacements if Kevin Garnett doesn't return.

The NBA champion Miami Heat took forward Arnett Moultrie of Mississippi State at No. 27 with their first-round pick, but traded his rights to Philadelphia for the rights to LSU center Justin Hamilton and a future first-round pick.

Rosol stuns crowd by beating Nadal at Wimbledon

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—It was Lukas Rosol and not Rafael Nadal who looked like a two-time Wimbledon champion used to pummeling opponents into submission on tennis' biggest stage.

It was Rosol, and not Nadal, who sprinted to and from his chair during changeovers like he had a never-ending supply of energy, pumped his fist and shouted to his entourage in the player's box. And it was the 100th-ranked, little-known Czech player making his first Wimbledon appearance—and not the 11-time Grand Slam winner—who got better and stronger as the second-round match on Centre Court progressed into the night.

He hit ace after ace to complete one of the biggest upsets tennis has seen in years.

As surprising as Rosol's five-set victory over Nadal was, the manner in which he completed it Thursday was perhaps equally stunning.

"In the fifth set he played more than unbelievable," Nadal said.

He wasn't the only one who struggled to believe what they were seeing.

Rosol, who had lost in qualifying for Wimbledon in each of the last five years, simply outclassed Nadal with his powerful serving and booming ground strokes. He hit cross-court backhand winners that measured 99 mph, he stepped up to whip scorching forehand returns, and he served so well that Nadal hardly tried to get to them by the final game. The last one he hit was his 22nd, and it wrapped up a 6-7 (9), 6-4, 6-4, 2-6, 6-4 victory that no one had seen coming.

Least of all Rosol himself.

"I'm not just surprised; it's like a miracle for me," he said. "Like just some B team in Czech Republic can beat Real Madrid (in) soccer."

But Rosol fully earned the win, bouncing back from wasting three set points in the first set to win the next two. After Nadal leveled the match in the fourth, organizers then decided to slide the retractable roof out over Centre Court to allow the match to finish under the lights. That forced a 45-minute break that had Nadal agitated, but seemingly just made Rosol stronger.

He came out and broke Nadal in the first game, and never gave the Spaniard a chance to get back into the match.

"I was playing well in the fourth," Nadal said. "I think I played a great fourth set. Sure the stop this time didn't help me. That's the sport."

Nadal had previously been upset about Rosol's behavior as he was preparing to return the Spaniard's serve, and complained about it to the chair umpire during one changeover in the third set. Two games later, Nadal bumped into Rosol—and didn't acknowledge the contact—as they walked to their chairs for a break.

Rosol said he thought Nadal was simply trying to mess up his concentration.

"I was surprised that he can do it on the Centre Court at Wimbledon," Rosol said. "It's like something wrong. ... He hit me, and then three times he apologized. And I say, OK."

And he kept his cool.

Rosol won his final 13 service points, seven with aces.

"Maybe it's once in life you can play like this against Rafael Nadal on Centre Court and you can win against him," Rosol said. "You know, it's not easy. I never expect it can happen, something like this."

It was a result that turned all other matches Thursday into afterthoughts.

Top-ranked Maria Sharapova, Serena Williams and defending champion Petra Kvitova all won on the women's side, and Andy Murray might prove to be the biggest beneficiary of Nadal's loss. The two were set to face each other in the semifinals, but Murray's side of the draw now looks wide open as he tries to become the first British man since 1936 to win the grass-court Grand Slam.

Murray beat Ivo Karlovic 7-5, 6-7 (5), 6-2, 7-6 (4) on Centre Court in the match before Nadal's. Karlovic then accused the line judges of favoring Murray after calling a number of foot-faults against the Croat—the type of comments that might have dominated headlines until Rosol's upset win.

Nadal won a record seventh French Open championship this month and was bidding for his third title at Wimbledon, where he was runner-up last year to Novak Djokovic.

He had reached the final in each of his last five Wimbledons—having skipped the 2009 tournament because of injury—and hadn't lost this early in a Grand Slam since 2005.

"Well, that's sport. You win, you lose," Nadal said. "Last four months were great for me. Was probably one of the best four months of my career, playing unbelievable in the clay court season. You arrive here, and a little bit of everything. You play against an inspired opponent, and I am out. That's all. Is not a tragedy. Is only a tennis match."

Italy beats Germany 2-1 to reach Euro 2012 final

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—Mario Balotelli flexed his muscles in more ways than one.

The 21-year-old striker quieted his of critics by leading Italy to an unexpected spot in the European Championship final, scoring twice in the first half in a 2-1 victory over Germany on Thursday night.

After his second goal, Balotelli stripped off his jersey and flexed his muscles in a defiant pose—even if that meant an automatic yellow card.

"This is the greatest night of my life, but I hope Sunday is going to be even better," Balotelli said, looking ahead to the final against defending champion Spain. "In the opening matches I had a lot of chances, and I wasn't able to finish them. But In football you also need luck."

In the 20th minute, Balotelli had no trouble getting past Holger Badstuber to head in a pinpoint cross from Antonio Cassano. Then in the 36th, Balotelli received the ball behind the defense and blasted a long shot into the top right corner.

With three goals, Balotelli is tied for the tournament lead. After the match, Italy coach Cesare Prandelli was asked if this was the best match of Balotelli's career.

"Balotelli's career has just started," Prandelli said.

Germany's winless streak against Italy in major tournaments reached eight matches. The Germans failed to trouble Italy for much of the match, although Mesut Oezil scored a consolation penalty in injury time after Federico Balzaretti was whistled for a handball.

Germany entered the game on a world-record 15-match winning streak in competitive matches.

"It's a very bitter defeat," Germany captain Philipp Lahm said. "We tried everything in the second half but our goal came too late. We have so much potential in our team but if we cannot give the right performance at the right time or are not clever enough, then we lose such a game."

The final in Kiev, Ukraine, will be a rematch of Italy and Spain's 1-1 draw that opened Group C.

"We showed we're on Spain's level and that's where we started this run," Italy midfielder Claudio Marchisio said. "It's no longer a question of fear. Now we've got to pull out everything we still have inside ourselves."

While Italy has won four World Cups, it's only European Championship title came in 1968. As they did in winning the 1982 and 2006 World Cups, the Azzurri have managed to maintain their focus despite a match-fixing and betting scandal at home.

"All I can say is that when you talk about Italy, everyone needs to be careful," Prandelli said. "We played an extraordinary match. We displayed a model of fair play and attachment to this shirt."

On a pleasant evening at the National Stadium Warsaw, Cassano set up the opening goal by befuddling Germany defenders Mats Hummels and Jerome Boateng to lift the ball in Balotelli's direction.

The second goal began with a long vertical pass from Riccardo Montolivo, whose mother is German. Balotelli collected the pass with his back to the goal, controlled the ball with his chest and then sprinted forward and unleashed a blazing shot from the edge of the area as Germany goalkeeper Manuel Neuer again stood immobile.

"We did what we had thought would put them in trouble," Prandelli said. "We played centrally and looked for one-on-one opportunities with Cassano."

AP

Italy's Mario Balotelli jumps for an header during the Euro 2012 soccer championship semifinal match between Germany and Italy in Warsaw, Poland, Thursday, June 28, 2012.

Even before scoring, Italy controlled the pace of the match, although Germany did have several chances from Hummels, Toni Kroos and Oezil.

In the 35th, Italy goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon preserved the lead by swatting away a long shot from Sami Khedira—and Balotelli doubled the lead a minute later.

To start the second half, Germany coach Joachim Loew brought on Miroslav Klose for Mario Gomez at center forward and replaced Lukas Podolski with Marco Reus on wing.

With Germany appearing slightly more organized, Lahm had a great look at the goal in the 49th but shot way over the bar.

"If we had scored earlier, there could have been more for us," Loew said. "The disappointment is great. Nobody is speaking in the dressing room. The players are crying. ... But I am not going to question everything we've done. This team has great quality. It will continue to develop and learn."

Buffon made another impressive save in the 62nd, leaping to push a free kick from Reus off the bar.

While Italy largely sat back and protected its lead in the second half, the Azzurri did produce some dangerous counterattacks. Marchisio shot just wide in the 67th and 75th and substitute Antonio Di Natale missed another chance in the 82nd.

Di Natale came on in the 70th after Balotelli went down with a cramp to his left leg.

White-clad German fans greatly outnumbered Italian supporters, unveiling a huge banner before kickoff that featured a giant "G" for Germany. However, most of the stadium was filled with Polish fans cheering for Italy.

"We're living a dream along with millions of Italians," Italy defender Giorgio Chiellini said. "We're going to enjoy this victory a little longer, then we'll think about Sunday, because we want to continue dreaming."

White Sox capitalize on error, rally over Yankees

NEW YORK (AP)—Chicago's Dayan Viciedo hit a three-run homer in the ninth inning after a throwing error, lifting the White Sox to a 4-3 win over the New York Yankees in Thursday's clash of American League divisional leaders.

New York pitcher Clay Rapada's wild toss to second base on a potential double-play ball set up the White Sox. With closer Rafael Soriano not available after pitching the past two games, the Yankees had their five-game winning streak ended.

Rangers 7, Athletics 6

In Arlington, Texas, leadoff man Ian Kinsler got four hits, scored three runs and stole two bases, sending Texas past Oakland for its 11th win in 13 games.

Texas' Scott Feldman (2-6) won despite allowing nine hits in five innings. Joe Nathan earned his 18th save.

Oakland's Tyson Ross (2-8) was tagged for five runs in four innings.

Angels 9, Blue Jays 7

In Toronto, rookie Mike Trout and Mark Trumbo each hit two-run homers and Alberto Callaspo added a solo shot as Los Angeles beat Toronto.

Trout had two hits and raised his AL-leading average to .345. The Angels have won 14 of their past 15 road games.

Toronto's Jose Bautista hit his major league-best 26th homer, a three-run drive in the fifth. It wasn't enough as the last-place Blue Jays slumped to their third straight defeat.

Indians 7, Orioles 2

In Baltimore, Johnny Damon and Asdrubal Cabrera hit three-run homers and Choo Shin-soo had a solo shot as Cleveland beat Baltimore to end a five-game losing skid.

Recalled from the minors before the game, Indians rookie Zach McAllister (2-1) allowed two runs over 5 2-3 innings, striking out six and walking one in his fifth career start.

Orioles rookie Chen Wei-yin (7-4) gave up six runs in 6 1-3 innings.

Tigers 5, Rays 2

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Miguel Cabrera had four hits and drove in two runs, leading Detroit over Tampa Bay.

Cabrera homered and doubled. His sixth-inning RBI single off James Shields (7-5) gave the Tigers a 4-1 lead.

Detroit starter Max Scherzer (7-5) allowed only four hits in six-plus innings in his second start since the death of his brother this month.

Mariners 1, Red Sox 0

In Seattle, Felix Hernandez matched his career high with 13 strikeouts in a brilliant complete game, steering Seattle past Boston.

Hernandez (6-5) pitched his fifth career shutout.

The sole run came in the bottom of the ninth. Casper Wells lined a one-out double off Scott Atchison (2-1). After an intentional walk, John Jaso lined the first pitch he saw for a single that brought home Wells.

Giants 5, Reds 0

In San Francisco, San Francisco recorded a fourth straight shutout for the first time in Giants history, beating the Cincinnati Reds and going clear atop the National League West standings for the first time this season.

Madison Bumgarner (10-4) pitched a one-hitter, allowing only a single leading off the sixth inning. He struck out eight in winning his fifth straight decision.

Mets 3, Dodgers 2

In Los Angeles, David Wright hit a solo homer and RBI double as New York sent Los Angeles to its fifth straight loss.

The Dodgers ended their 33-inning scoreless drought in the fourth, but couldn't break through against the Mets' bullpen and dropped from the top of the NL West.

Mets starter Chris Young (2-1) allowed two runs in 6 1-3 innings, striking out six and walking none. Bobby Parnell, getting his first save opportunity since closer Frank Francisco was injured, pitched a perfect ninth inning for his first save of the year.

Diamondbacks 3, Braves 2

In Atlanta, Chris Young hit a tiebreaking homer in the ninth inning to give Arizona the win over Atlanta.

Jason Kubel had hit a two-run double in the sixth to tie the score for the Diamondbacks.

Trevor Bauer, the No. 3 overall draft pick in 2011, did not receive a decision in his major-league debut for Arizona. David Hernandez (1-0) earned the win with a scoreless eighth. J.J. Putz got the last three outs for the save.

Braves closer Craig Kimbrel (0-1) gave up the first homer he's conceded this season, and took the loss.

Pirates 5, Phillies 4

In Philadelphia, A.J. Burnett threw 6 2-3 sharp innings to win his eighth straight start and guide Pittsburgh past Philadelphia.

Burnett (9-2) allowed six hits, striking out seven. It's the first time a Pirates pitcher has won eight in a row since Dock Ellis in 1974.

Casey McGehee hit a three-run homer for Pittsburgh, who are 40-35 but haven't finished a season with more wins than losses since 1992.

Joel Hanrahan tossed a scoreless ninth for his 20th save.

Rockies 11, Nationals 10, 11 innings

In Denver, Marco Scutaro's RBI single in the 11th inning lifted Colorado over Washington after it squandered an early seven-run lead.

Jonathan Herrera doubled with one out off Craig Stammen (3-1). After pinch-hitter Jason Giambi walked, Dexter Fowler hit a fly ball to deep center that was caught by Bryce Harper. Herrera tagged up and took third on the play with pinch-runner Christian Friedrich advancing to second.

Scutaro, who was 13 for 68 with runners in scoring position, then completed a seven-pitch at-bat with a single to right-center.

Padres 7, Astros 3

In Houston, Alexi Amarista launched a grand slam for his first major league homer, capping a six-run rally in the ninth inning that lifted San Diego over Houston.

With two outs and the score 3-3, Amarista homered off Brett Myers (0-3).

San Diego's Andrew Cashner held Houston hitless for six innings in only his third big league start.

Laolao Bay offers free golf lesson to youth

As part of its community service, the Laolao Bay Golf Resort will be offering free golf lessons to the youth starting next month.

The lessons are open to the first 20 junior golfers who register and will be held from July 7 to Aug. 25 at Laolao Bay's sprawling Kagman golf course.

Registration starts Monday, July 2, while lessons will be held Monday to Friday from 8am to 10am. Registration forms are available at Laolao Bay. For more information, call Laolao Bay 236-8888 or Tony Satur at 236-8840. ***(PR)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	46	29	.613	_
Baltimore	41	34	.547	5
Boston	40	36	.526	6Ω
Tampa Bay	40	36	.526	6 1/2
Toronto	38	38	.500	8 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	41	35	.539	_
Cleveland	38	37	.507	2 1/2
Detroit	37	39	.487	4
Kansas City	34	39	.466	5 1/2
Minnesota	30	44	.405	10

West Division

Texas	48	29	.623	_
Los Angeles	43	33	.566	4 1/2
Oakland	37	40	.481	11
Seattle	33	45	.423	15Ω

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	43	31	.581	_
Atlanta	40	35	.533	3 1/2
New York	41	36	.532	3 1/2
Miami	35	40	.467	8 1/2
Philadelphia	36	42	.462	9

Central Division

Cincinnati	41	34	.547	_
Pittsburgh	40	35	.533	1
St. Louis	40	36	.526	1 1/2
Milwaukee	34	41	.453	7
Houston	32	44	.421	9 1/2
Chicago	26	49	.347	15

West Division

San Francisco	44	33	.571	_
Los Angeles	43	34	.558	1
Arizona	38	37	.507	5
Colorado	29	46	.387	14
San Diego	28	49	.364	16

AT&T NATIONAL SCORES

BETHESDA, Maryland (AP)–Scores Thursday from the $6.5-million AT&T National at the par-71 (36-35), 7,569-yard Congressional Country Club, Blue Course

FIRST ROUND

Bo Van Pelt	33-34-67
Vijay Singh	33-35-68
Brendon de Jonge	35-33-68
Jimmy Walker	32-36-68
Billy Hurley III	37-32-69
Pat Perez	37-32-69
Jason Day	36-33-69
Daniel Summerhays	36-34-70
Brandt Jobe	35-35-70
Greg Owen	36-34-70
Dustin Johnson	35-35-70
Hunter Mahan	36-34-70
Davis Love III	36-34-70
Marc Leishman	37-33-70
Stewart Cink	37-33-70
John Mallinger	36-34-70
James Driscoll	33-37-70
Seung-Yul Noh	35-35-70
Charlie Wi	34-36-70
Nick Watney	37-33-70
Charles Howell III	35-35-70
Robert Garrigus	37-33-70
Vaughn Taylor	36-35-71
Jhonattan Vegas	37-34-71
Angel Cabrera	36-35-71
Beau Hossler	36-35-71
Harris English	38-33-71
Rod Pampling	37-34-71
Brendan Steele	35-36-71
Ryuji Imada	39-33-72
Brendon Todd	36-36-72
J.J. Killeen	37-35-72
Chez Reavie	38-34-72
Kevin Chappell	35-37-72
John Huh	36-36-72
Kyle Stanley	36-36-72
J.B. Holmes	33-39-72
Blake Adams	36-36-72
Tiger Woods	36-36-72
Martin Laird	35-37-72
Charley Hoffman	38-34-72
Gary Woodland	38-34-72
Greg Chalmers	38-34-72
William McGirt	35-37-72
Brian Harman	39-33-72
K.T. Kim	37-35-72
Patrick Cantlay	35-37-72
Troy Matteson	38-35-73
Bud Cauley	39-34-73
Ryan Moore	37-36-73
Johnson Wagner	37-36-73
Brian Gay	38-35-73
Erik Compton	39-34-73
Tom Gillis	40-33-73
Andres Romero	34-39-73
Sean O'Hair	36-37-73
Jim Furyk	36-37-73
George McNeill	36-37-73
D.A. Points	38-35-73
Will Claxton	38-35-73
Graham DeLaet	37-37-74
Bob Estes	35-39-74
Billy Mayfair	36-38-74
Ryan Palmer	37-37-74
Rory Sabbatini	38-36-74
Ben Curtis	35-39-74
Trevor Immelman	39-35-74
Josh Teater	35-39-74
Cameron Tringale	37-37-74
Brian Davis	39-35-74
Kelly Kraft	37-37-74
Hunter Haas	38-36-74
Ricky Barnes	35-39-74
Roberto Castro	39-35-74
Bobby Gates	35-39-74
Michael Thompson	37-38-75
Boo Weekley	38-37-75
Chris Stroud	39-36-75
Tommy Gainey	37-38-75
Adam Scott	36-39-75
Cameron Beckman	40-35-75
Tim Herron	36-39-75
Kyle Reifers	38-37-75
D.J. Trahan	37-38-75
Chad Campbell	39-36-75
Matt Bettencourt	36-39-75
Justin Leonard	38-37-75
Robert Allenby	38-37-75
Sang-Moon Bae	40-35-75
Martin Flores	37-38-75
Jordan Spieth	38-37-75
Chris Couch	36-40-76
Y.E. Yang	38-38-76
Dicky Pride	37-39-76
Kevin Stadler	34-42-76
Heath Slocum	39-37-76
Scott Piercy	39-37-76
Arjun Atwal	40-36-76
Chris Kirk	38-38-76
Kevin Streelman	40-36-76
Chris DiMarco	37-39-76
Notah Begay III	40-36-76
Sung Kang	35-42-77
John Merrick	41-36-77
Ben Crane	37-40-77
Spencer Levin	40-37-77
J.J. Henry	35-42-77
Tom Pernice Jr.	41-37-78
Bryce Molder	39-39-78
Camilo Villegas	36-42-78
Danny Lee	38-40-78
Jeff Maggert	38-40-78
David Mathis	39-39-78
Michael Bradley	40-39-79
Jeff Overton	39-40-79
K.J. Choi	40-39-79
Lucas Glover	41-39-80
Kris Blanks	39-41-80
Nick O'Hern	44-38-82
Mark Anderson	44-39-83

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Congressional finally provides US Open test

BETHESDA, Md. (AP)—Tiger Woods feels like he is making up for lost time by missing the U.S. Open last year.

Woods wasn't at Congressional for the 2011 U.S. Open, so it was difficult for him to compare the opening round Thursday in the AT&T National with the major known as the toughest test in golf that was played at Congressional a year ago, the one that hardly lived up to his reputation.

But he listened to Nick Watney and caddie Chad Reynolds, who confirmed his suspicions.

"They were saying at least during the Open, you could get it to land on the green from the rough," Woods said. "They had graduated rough. There's no graduated rough here this week. If it's not in the fairway, then it's in the deep stuff. So it's a different setup. It's hard and fast, and we have to be careful a lot of times, and when you have an opportunity to be aggressive, better do it."

Bo Van Pelt did it better than anyone.

He kept bogeys off his card and picked up an extra shot when his wedge spun back into the hole for an eagle. It's a formula that would work well at a U.S. Open, which is what Congressional felt like Thursday on his way to a 4-under 67 and a one-shot lead.

Woods, who struggled at times with his wedges, opened with a 72 and was starting to feel that this was his third U.S. Open of the year—Bay Hill, which was firm and brittle in the final round and yielded only two rounds in the 60s; and Olympic Club two weeks ago, which really was a U.S. Open and was won by Webb Simpson at 1-over par.

"A couple shots today, the ball is bouncing as high as it flies," Woods said. "It's an adjustment we have to make."

Congressional took a beating last year when unfavorable weather conditions in the weeks leading up to the U.S. Open and overnight rain during the championship made the venerable Blue Course a pushover. Rory McIlroy had a record score of 16-under 268 for an eight-shot victory.

The AT&T National was more of a grind.

"It's certainly, I think, a little retribution for what happened last year," Woods said. "Don't be mad at me. I didn't play."

A year ago at the U.S. Open, there were nine rounds in the 60s and 21 players broke par in the opening round. On Thursday in the AT&T National, only seven players were in the 60s and 22 broke par. Four players failed to break 80, just like a year ago, only the 120-man field at the AT&T National is filled with PGA Tour players. For the U.S. Open, two of those rounds in the 80s were by amateurs, a third by Ty Tryon.

"I think everybody knows the golf course last year just wasn't quite ready to be set up the way they wanted it to be set up, and it's unfortunate," Van Pelt said. "I know they spent a lot of time and money to get it ready, and some things are out of your control. I said it last year—they needed one more year, and basically you could have a U.S. Open here this week if you wanted it.

"That's the way it's set up."

The sunshine and heat figure to make it tougher over the next few days, especially on the weekend.

Watney, the defending champion (at Aronimink) who was in the large group at 70, said the more fair comparison was with the U.S. Open held two weeks ago at The Olympic Club. Michael Thompson led after the opening day at 4-under 66, and Simpson won at 1-over 281.

As for Congressional?

"If last year was a 4 out of 10 on firmness of greens, this was a 7 trending to an 8," Watney said, who didn't major in economics at Fresno State.

Van Pelt only twice struggled to make par, making a 30-foot putt on the 15th and a 20-footer on the par-5 sixth hole. Equally impressive was his bunker shot on the 18th to tap-in range, and he took those vibes to the first hole. After an aggressive drive, he had 93 yards to the hole and figured it was a good time to put to test all the work he has done on his wedge play. It worked out better than he imagined, holing it for an eagle.

"I actually thought it had kind of spun back in front of the hole, and all of a sudden this guy behind the green started going nuts," Van Pelt said. "You never know when those are going to happen, so it's nice to get a deuce."

Even better was not making a bogey and giving himself a good start going into his Friday morning start of the second round.

Woods never got it going, and he made two blunders late in the round with his bunker play, which also was suspect in the U.S. Open two weeks ago. After making a 15-foot birdie putt on the 14th, he put his approach into the bunker right of the green on the 15th. His shot barely got out of the sand, and he stubbed a chip, leaving him a 7-footer that he had to make for bogey.

On the next hole, he was 244 yards from the hole when he pulled a 4-iron to the bunker short of the green on the par-5 16th. The gallery groaned when the ball emerged from the bunker and barely got onto the green, costing him a reasonable birdie chance. He two-putted from 30 feet for par.

Woods attributed it to the amount of sand in the bunkers and that his 60-degree wedge "is not built for this much sand."

"So I have to make an adjustment and hit the ball a little bit closer, make sure I hit a little closer to the golf ball," he said. "And I just didn't do it."

MAJOR

From Page 28

League board, everyone's passport information was supposed to be submitted by June 15 because that is when the initial travel arrangement requests were supposed to be submitted, however Kintaro Sr. claims that June 21 was the deadline for everyone to submit their passports. On that date, Kintaro Sr. said his son's passport was signed and approved and was submitted to the board.

Needless to say, Kintaro Sr. was not pleased with the way everything unraveled.

"The SLL board members are a bunch of liars," claimed Kintaro Sr. "They did not even have the decency to inform me that my son was not included with the group until 4:30pm on the day they left."

Kintaro Sr. also claimed that the fundraising money was not divided evenly among the players.

Notably, there was apparently a discrepancy in regards to who the signing authority was for the travel arrangements during the time of limbo from June 15 to June 27 as they waited for their government funding to show up.

Kintaro's situation may involve problems with both his passport and funding.

"We are very sorry that James did not make the trip, but everyone was told to have their documents turned in on time," said SLL board member Annie Deleon Guerrero-Flores over the phone yesterday.

Flores added, "We don't want to buy the kids tickets and send them off-island without a passport. (James) could have still made the flight if he were able to come up with the extra funds like the other players' family did."

The team was supposed to travel as a 15-person party under a group rate with Century Travel.

K.J. Deleon Guerrero was the other player that turned in late documents; he received independent funds to join the squad.

Assistant coach Henry Lizama was also left behind as a result because, by rule, only three coaches are allowed to manage teams of 13 players or more.

Kintaro Jr., Deleon Guerrero, and Lizama were listed as stand-by passengers before the final cuts were made Wednesday evening.

FIELDERS

From Page 28

SML field.

Fielders 16, Ol'Aces 7

IP&E Fielders assumed an early 3-0 lead in the first inning from a couple of base rips by Wenser Namelo and Cadez Tenorio that were followed by a pair of walks for a bonus run.

IP&E added two more runs in the second inning from a leadoff triple by Anthony Tenorio and another RBI single by Cadez Tenorio.

They remained patient at the plate as the count shifted to 9-3 after the three innings. IP&E's Anthony Tenorio and John Reyes bashed a pair of RBI base hits, while three runs made it around off wild throws.

Ol'Aces also mustered three runs with the help from some shaky defense. Ol'Aces' Jess Iguel chalked up an RBI in the mix.

IP&E then cracked four hits in the fourth and trudged forward, 11-3, but stumbled again in the bottom frame and allowed three runs by the Ol'Aces.

Though IP&E never lost control, the Ol'Aces managed to draw out the game to all nine innings.

They trotted ahead, 14-6, in the sixth of a couple of RBI base knocks by Shane Mendiola and John Reyes and sprinkled runs in the seventh and ninth before on rout to the easy win.

Anthony Tenorio batted 5-for-5 with two triples, three RBIs, five runs, and two bases on balls.

Angels 17, Masters 7

The Angels pushed in front, 2-0, in the first inning off three hits. Franco Flores bagged an RBI single.

They added a run in the second inning off an error and then jumped ahead, 6-1, after bringing around three more runs in the fourth off three hits. Hector Efraim came away with an RBI base rip.

Three more runs came in for the Angels in the fifth frame after four more hits. Jay Camacho led off with a double, John Reyes roped a triple, and Nunu Kapileo nabbed an RBI single in the exchange.

Both teams traded a run in the sixth inning and the Masters halved their deficit, 5-10, in the seventh off some sketchy pitching and a two-RBI bash by Mark Flores.

The Masters pulled within three runs in the top of the eighth, but fell apart out in the field as the Angels sewed together a nine-run surge with two outs that slammed the door.

The Angels busted six hits in the inning, which include an RBI double by Marvin Kaipat, an RBI single by Kapileo, a two-RBI smash by Efraim, and an RBI base poke from Peter Tenorio; Tenorio scored the game winner soon after off an error.

John Reyes batted 5-for-6 with an RBI, four runs, and three stolen bases.

BRADLEY

From Page 28

likely foe than unbeaten US star Floyd Mayweather, who remains behind bars on domestic violence charges but should be ready to fight again late this year.

Fans have longed for a Mayweather-Pacquiao fight but negotiations have failed and the luster has started to dim in the wake of Pacquiao's defeat and Mayweather's incarceration. ***(Agence France-Presse)***

Italy beats Germany 2-1 to reach Euro 2012 final

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Hornets select Davis with No. 1 pick in NBA draft

PAGE 25

Major All-Stars get last-minute flight to Taipei

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The CNMI Little League Major All-Stars and their parents can now heave a sigh of relief after the government approved their funding request, allowing them to take part in this year's Asia-Pacific Regional Championship in Tauchung, Taipei.

The team received official word that its trip to Taipei is pushing through during a last-minute meeting held by the Saipan Little League Baseball Inc. board of directors around 5:30pm yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

About half of the team left at 4:20am this morning with the rest scheduled to depart the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport at 8:45am.

"We were getting nervous that the kids would not make it, but thanks to Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Secretary of Finance Larissa Larson, and the entire Legislative Delegation, the group will get to represent us in the 2012 regional tournament," said SLLBI vice president Ray Yumul in a phone interview yesterday.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

The CNMI Major League All-Stars pose for a team photo after winning the 2012 CNMI Little League District Tournament last June 17 at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

The team is made up of Kier Agda, Ryan Aguon, Richard Atalig, Ethan Babauta, Erik Cruz, Austin Hocog, Benen Iguel, Jay Kalen, Matt Kapileo, Aurel Mendiola, Brandon Pua, Joaquin Saralu, Virgil Secharmidal, and Nathaniel Torres.

Team manager Antonio Camacho leads the group with head coach Kent Kalen and assistant coach Peter Tomokane.

All 14 players are expected to make the trip.

The tourney features players ranging from ages 11 to 12 and starts on Monday and runs through Sunday, July 8.

In related news, new developments surfaced about CNMI Juniors All-Stars' James Kintaro Jr. who did not get to join the rest of the squad when they left for Vietnam Wednesday night.

According to his father, James Kintaro Sr., James' passport information was submitted on June 21 and he was not the last person to do so.

According to the Little

See MAJOR on Page 27

Fielders trump Ol'Aces, 17-6

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The IP&E-ShellFielders defeated the Ol'Aces, 16-7, in their second round matchup in the Saipan Major League Baseball Association Thursday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

It was a much-needed win for IP&E, which improved its win-loss record to 3-5, while the Ol'Aces dropped to a 5-3 slate.

Additionally, defending champion St. Michael's Medical Response Angels (4-3) toppled the Rep. Sylvestre Iguel Masters (1-6), 17-7, in eight innings last Tuesday.

The season continues Monday at 6:30pm at Tan Ko Field when the Ol'Aces take on co-frontrunner Saipan Stevedore Co. Northern Yankees (6-1).

Tan Holdings Brewers (6-1) and the Rep. Ray Yumul D9-ers (0-6) make up the rest of the

See FIELDERS on Page 27

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

IP&E-Shell Fielders' Anthony Tenorio waits for a pitch during Thursday's SML matchup against the Ol'Aces at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Bradley keeps title he took from Pacquiao

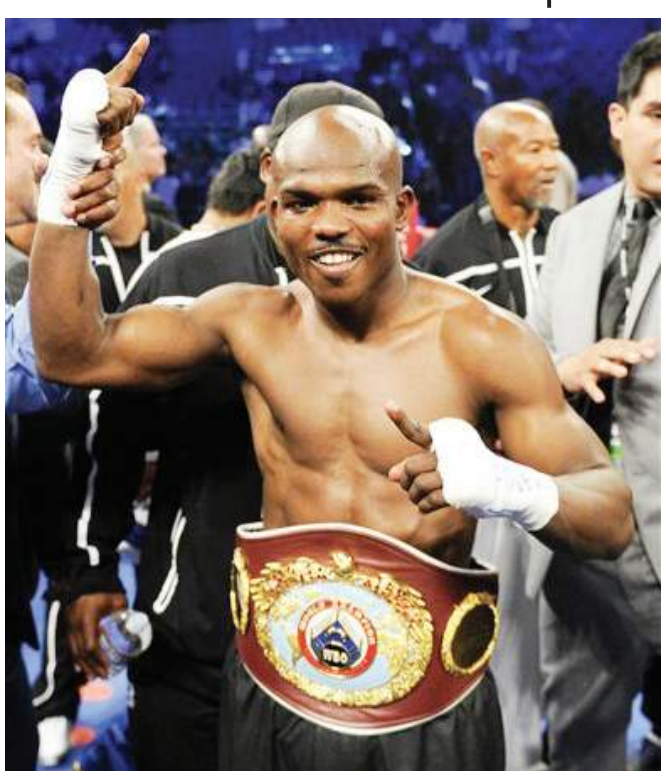
BOXING

LAS VEGAS — Undefeated American Tim Bradley has chosen to keep the World Boxing Organization welterweight crown he took from Filipino icon Manny Pacquiao and forfeit the WBO junior welterweight crown.

The decision, revealed on the sanctioning body's website, means Mexico's Juan Manuel Marquez moves into the WBO junior welterweight throne while Bradley sits atop the WBO welterweight ranks after his controversial split decision shocker.

Marquez, who had held the interim WBO junior welterweight title, has now reigned in four weight classes, half as many as Pacquiao.

Bradley, 29-0 with 12 knockouts, hopes for a November 10 rematch with Pacquiao. But "Pac-Man" promoter Bob Arum has made a case for Pacquiao instead to fight Marquez for a fourth time after beating him twice and drawing once.



AP

Timothy Bradley poses with his champion's belt following WBO welterweight title fight split decision victory over Manny Pacquiao, from the Philippines, Saturday, June 9, 2012, in Las Vegas.

Each Pacquiao-Marquez fight was a slugfest and a close verdict.

Either Marquez or Bradley appears to be a more

See BRADLEY on Page 27